

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025



Contents

04

President's Report

08

Strategic Plan

14

Our Community

20

Congresses

28

Advocacy

34

Research

40

Guidelines

42

Publications

44

Career Development

56

Governance

62

Financial Report

President's Report



Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to provide you with the Annual Report 2025 of the European Society of Cardiology. Indeed, with pride, we report on a fantastic year with great achievements for our society, our members and, eventually, our patients.

The ESC is a complex society with 7 Associations, 7 Councils and 15 Working Groups supported by 58 National Cardiac Societies and 49 Affiliated National Cardiac Societies. To remain effective in pursuing our mission – i.e. reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease – appropriate governance is required. To that end, in 2024, an ESC Governance Task Force was created that made important recommendations leading to a set of bylaws that provide an effective working framework for the ESC and its constituent bodies. Of note, the ESC Bylaws can be adapted continuously as new challenges and changes occur in the ESC environment.

I am also proud to report that the current 2024–2026 ESC Board is the most diverse, involving highly experienced volunteers from different countries and both sexes, providing an outstanding body to address the challenges of our changing environment.

A new feature, responding to the advent of artificial intelligence and machine learning, was the creation of the *ESC Digital Cardiology and Artificial Intelligence (DCAI)* committee fostering the use of this new technology to the benefit of the ESC's activities, as well as providing education for our volunteers. As a first product, we developed – using large language models – the

ESC Chat, an interactive tool with all valid ESC Guidelines for rapid access in a most user-friendly manner. Indeed, the ESC is very concerned about the sub-optimal implementation of guideline recommendations in clinical practice. To this end, two major *ESC Cardiovascular Round Tables* have been organised and a comprehensive review providing the basis for future steps to improve the situation will be published in 2025.

In 2024, the ESC again organised successful congresses: in particular, our annual ESC Congress 2024 in London on 30 August – 2 September 2024 had an impressive attendance of over 30,000 participants onsite and online from all over the world and an outstanding programme featuring a record number of Hot Lines, outstanding scientific sessions and the presentation of four new *ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines*. Similarly, the congresses of our associations, councils and Working Groups featured remarkable programmes and were very well attended last year.

The ESC journal family grew further with our flagship, the *European Heart Journal*, remaining No. 1 in cardiovascular medicine, followed by the *European Journal of Heart Failure* and many other journals covering the entire field of cardiovascular medicine. Further, we are planning a new journal, *EHJ Valvular and Structural Heart Disease*, to appear in September 2025, as well as the Fourth Edition of *ESC CardioMed*, – the electronic version of the *ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine* – with many new features to allow for continuous updating of content.

With congresses and journals being among our main and most successful income streams, this led to a positive budget in 2024/2025 demonstrating that the ESC is back on track after the COVID-19 pandemic that affected all learning societies.

Adding to the good news of 2024, a much-awaited announcement was made by the European Commission - their intention to launch a EU Cardiovascular Health Plan during the current mandate 2024 - 2029. Not only this but the Ministers of Health of the 27 EU nations also approved on 3 December 2024 “Council Conclusions on the Improvement of Cardiovascular Health in the EU”, putting cardiovascular health at the forefront of the political agenda. During the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU when the Council Conclusions were adopted, Hungarian Secretary of State, Péter Takács MD, issued a news release in support of “more robust efforts to help prevent cardiovascular diseases”.

Our ESC Advocacy Committee and many volunteers including from the National Cardiac Societies played a major role in calling for the EU Cardiovascular Health (CVH) Plan, together with other partners in the European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health (EACH). ESC leadership have been continuing efforts including meetings with the Polish Government during their Presidency of the EU, the EU Commissioner of Health Olivér Várhelyi, as well as with representatives of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) that will be responsible for drafting the EU CVH Plan.

Importantly, the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan is also in alignment with our ESC Strategic Plan 2023-2028 making cardiovascular science, data science, artificial intelligence, and environmental sustainability a major priority for us.

With a most successful year behind us, we are looking forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary of the ESC during our annual ESC Congress 2025 in Madrid on 29 August – 1 September 2025 and many other exciting projects and activities. We count on you to be part of it!

With best regards,

Professor Thomas F. Lüscher, MD FRCP

President – The European Society of Cardiology

Professor of Cardiology 2024–2026 – Imperial College

Director of Research, Education & Development – Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals

Strategic Plan

Advancing the Strategic Plan: Key Actions in FY25

In 2024–2025, we took meaningful steps to bring the ESC Strategic Plan to life through the launch of a shared Action Plan – shaped collaboratively by all ESC teams. This effort was guided by our six core strategic aims, with an additional internal emphasis on ensuring long-term economic stability.

The Action Plan reflects the strength of our collective effort: designed to be inclusive, aligned, and adaptable. Each key action is carefully mapped to a strategic aim, with progress continuously tracked to keep us moving forward together.

These initiatives are more than just operational progress – they embody the shared commitment of the ESC community to becoming stronger, more responsive, and more impactful in everything we do.



Sustainability – Towards a Sustainable Future Together

Sustainability is a core pillar of our strategic vision. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint across all our activities – starting with our congresses.

In close partnership with industry, we created the ESC Sustainability Focus Group to guide and accelerate our efforts. At ESC Congress in London and across our subspecialty events, we introduced concrete initiatives to reduce emissions and promote responsible practices. These include careful venue selection, waste reduction strategies, and stronger communications to help attendees make eco-friendly choices – with sustainability tips shared before and during each event.

A proud milestone: EHRA 2025 earned the prestigious Austrian Ecolabel, recognising our collective commitment to high environmental standards and continuous improvement.

Why an Environmental Sustainability Task Force?

Environmental factors – from air pollution to extreme temperatures – are now recognised as major contributors to cardiovascular disease. At the same time, healthcare systems and medical societies have a responsibility to reduce their own environmental footprint.

The Task Force reflects our commitment to both:

- Protecting cardiovascular health by addressing environmental risks
- Ensuring our own activities lead by example in sustainability

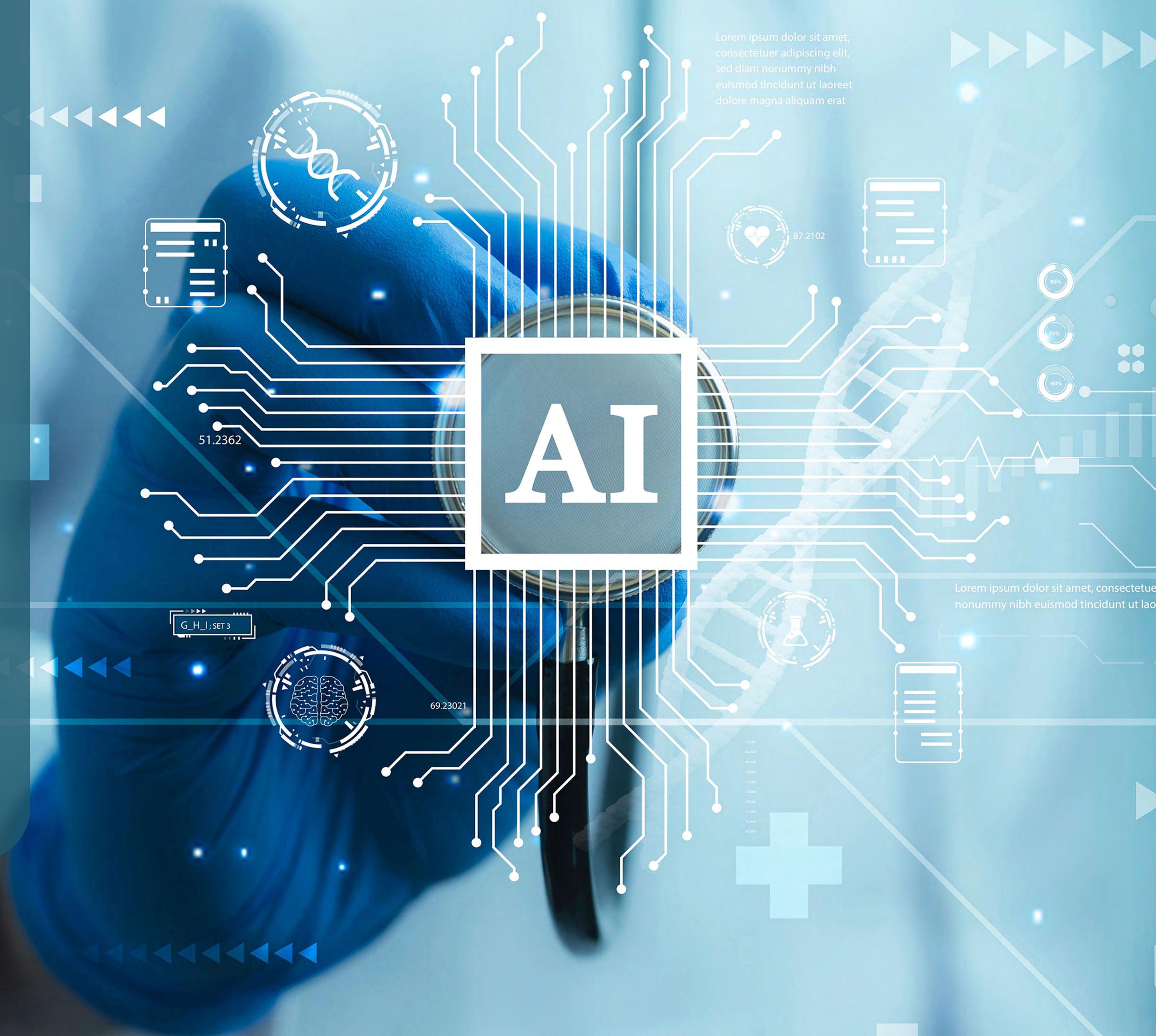
This work is guided by a multidisciplinary team – including atmospheric chemists, noise specialists, cardiologists, prevention experts, public health advocates, and representatives from the European Environment Agency.



Digital Cardiology and Artificial Intelligence (DCAI) Committee

The ESC Digital Cardiology and Artificial Intelligence (DCAI) Committee, formerly the Digital Health Committee, plays a central role in driving the ESC Strategic Plan forward through the use of innovative technologies that support the prevention, diagnosis, and management of cardiovascular disease. Under the leadership of Chair Folkert Asselbergs, we foster collaboration and knowledge exchange across ESC platforms – including our journals (such as the *European Heart Journal* and *EHJ – Digital Health*), our guidelines, our congresses (such as the Digital & AI Summit and Digital Health Area at ESC Congress), our educational programmes, and our advocacy work.

We are building a dynamic ecosystem through the DCAI Committee – bringing together pioneers, startups, researchers, clinicians, and policymakers to help accelerate the adoption of evidence-based digital and AI-powered solutions. The committee works closely with other ESC bodies – including the Working Group on e-Cardiology, ESC Associations, and Task Forces – to ensure strategic alignment, collaboration, and efficiency.



Our Community

17,975
ESC Professional
Members

70,812
National Cardiac
Society members

15,612
Subspecialty
Association
Members

7,371
Council
Members

ESC
Membership

5,122
FESC &
EFESC

5,360
Working Group
Members

26,270
Subspecialty
Associations
Associates



Membership and Fellowship of the ESC (FESC)

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. In 2024, they continued to shape the ESC's direction, inspire progress, and build a stronger, more inclusive community.

The Young Community – those under 40 – now make up more than 45% of our membership. Throughout the year, they actively participated in mentoring, networking, and professional development events that helped connect and empower the next generation of cardiovascular leaders.

ESC Congress 2024 in London welcomed over 11,000 ESC Professional Members and FESC, contributing to a record number of memberships in August. Our ESC Professional Members and Fellows of the ESC (FESC) enjoyed dedicated lounges and networking spaces. Our new members were welcomed at a special event along the Thames and a welcome cocktail hosted by Prof. Christian Hassager, ESC Board Councillor for Membership. This welcome cocktail provided a perfect opportunity to strengthen our community ties.

Member lounges at association congresses provided additional touchpoints for networking and a rewarding experience with a range of member-only services throughout the year. Membership fee updates introduced a standard rate of €150 and a reduced rate of €75 (excluding EHRA and HFA, who will adopt these in 2025 and 2026). These changes were made to make membership more accessible globally for cardiovascular professionals working in low- and lower middle-income countries, and it continues to apply to students, trainees, nurses, and allied professionals.



The ESC Young Community

With 42% of members under 40, our Young Community is helping shape the ESC's future. At ESC Congress 2024, they represented 28% of online and 34% of onsite attendees and a high percentage of under 40s attending subspecialty association congresses. Through the Young Cardiovascular Professionals Committee, 14 representatives from across the ESC ensured diverse and gender-balanced perspectives.

Our new Mentoring Programme, launched at ESC Congress 2024, quickly gained momentum. Nearly 500 participants have already joined, and we aim to engage 1,500 members by the end of FY26.



National Cardiac Societies, Affiliated Cardiac Societies and Global Partners

Engagement with National and Affiliated Cardiac Societies remained strong throughout 2024. In-person representation at events helped strengthen partnerships and foster a sense of unity across the ESC family.

Cardiac Society Community - Together at ESC Congress 2024

Leaders from National and Affiliated Cardiac Societies gathered for a dedicated presidential meeting and 12 additional leadership sessions to align on shared priorities. A further six operational meetings were held with society staff.

Global Community Area

Our vibrant Global Community Area served as a central hub for exchange, featuring 53 National Cardiac Societies (NCS), 16 Affiliated Cardiac Societies (ACS), and Global Partners. With 18 Daily Highlight Sessions, 13 NCS Sessions, and 11 ACS Sessions, it was a powerful symbol of global collaboration and scientific exchange.

Spring Summit 2025

This year's Spring Summit, held at the European Heart House, welcomed National Cardiac Society representatives and representatives from the ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils, to reflect on the role of artificial intelligence in cardiovascular medicine and share ideas on how to shape the future together.



Congresses

Evolving Participation – On-site and Online

Our congresses offering a live online component – namely EHRA 2024, Heart Failure 2024 and ESC Congress 2024 – had an average of 85% on-site attendees and 15% online.

While on-site attendance remained the preferred choice, our digital platforms offered valuable ways to stay connected. We saw a 3% increase in the time on-site delegates spent engaging with live and on-demand content – showing how our community is using digital tools to enrich their overall congress experience.

In-Person vs. Virtual

The use of online resources grew as did the integration between on-site and online components of the congresses. Although ESC Congress 2024 had 16% fewer online delegates compared with the previous year, there was a significant 12% increase in the number of delegates who used the online platform. We can see that on-site delegates are making more use of the online resources available to them to complement their congress experience.

This shows that hybrid events offer the best of both worlds – combining in-person energy with flexible, year-round learning opportunities.



ESC Congress 2024

The ESC's Global Appeal

The appeal of ESC Congress continued to spread globally as the number of delegates, presenters, and faculty from non-ESC member countries grew.

Percentage of non-ESC member country participants:

- Delegates: **36% to 38%** of total delegates
- Presenters: **34% to 40%** of total presenters
- Faculty: **21% to 24%** of total faculty

Improved Gender Balance

The number of female faculty at ESC Congress 2024 grew from 37% in 2023 to 43% in 2024. The proportion of women in the ESC Congress 2024 faculty increased from 37% in 2023 to 43% in 2024.

Women also participated in a broader range of roles, representing 50% of all roles, up from 42% the previous year.

Supporting Women in Cardiology

In collaboration with Women As One, the Rise @ ESC Congress 2024 event provided a full day of professional development for women in cardiology. Held the day before the congress opened, the event reflected our ongoing commitment to the ESC Gender Policy and efforts to strengthen leadership diversity across the cardiovascular field.

Original Research Submissions

We saw a significant increase in the number of submitted abstracts (+15%) as well as clinical cases (+43%) across all congresses, compared with the previous year.

ESC TV – Engaging, Interactive and Informative

The ESC TV Stage added a touch of entertainment to the educational learning experience. Delegates joined in real-time quizzes on cardiovascular topics, explored fun facts, and enjoyed a spirit of friendly competition. Popular sessions included the ESC TV Morning Show, Made Easy Series, Round Tables, conversations, quizzes and games, as well as The Day in Focus by ESC TV Today.

130 total recordings*

More than **3,700** total live viewers

353 live on-site viewers per session, on average

*Main Stage, Connect, Backstage



ESC Congress 2024

Key Figures



31,713 participants from **170** countries/territories

- 26,000 onsite
- 5,000 online



33% of participants were under 40



37% of participants were female



10,040 online attendees

- 56% of them also attended onsite in London



38% of participants were from
Affiliated Cardiac Societies



992 scientific and educational sessions

- 12.5% were streamed live online



1,865 faculty: **43%** female

- 88 countries represented



3,465 abstract and clinical case presenters

- 94 countries represented



8,620 abstracts and clinical cases submitted

- 4,451 abstracts presented



1,414 clinical cases submitted

- 402 clinical cases presented



Over 40 ESC TV programme sessions



18 Daily Highlights Sessions from
global partners

Subspecialty Congresses FY2025



More than **18,000** participants (an increase of 13% over the previous year) from 136 countries

- **Over 16,000** on-site participants
- Almost **2,000** online participants



41% of participants were under 40



42% of participants were female



19% of participants came from non-ESC member countries

- **14%** were from Affiliated Cardiac Societies



1,100 scientific and educational sessions

- **12%** were streamed live online



1,709 faculty: **34%** female

- **62** countries represented



Almost **3,500** abstract and clinical case presenters

- **96** countries were represented



Annual meetings were organised for
5 ESC Working Groups
3 ESC Councils



Expanding Our Reach in Asia

Last year, we also added an event to the ESC in Asia calendar with a dedicated track at the annual event of the Asean Federation of Cardiology in Singapore, as well as at the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology, in conjunction with the Emirates Cardiac Society in Dubai.





Advocacy

European Union on Track for a Cardiovascular Health Plan

In the second half of 2024, a new political term began for European institutions. With it, came positive announcements from the European Commission of their intention to create an EU Cardiovascular Health (CVH) Plan – a significant step forward. Together with support from the European Parliament and elected officials from member states, we now expect the CVH Plan to become a reality in the near future.

The European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health (EACH), whose secretariat is held by the ESC, has been instrumental in achieving this progress, with milestone events such as ‘Rising to the challenge: time for action on cardiovascular health’ in November 2024.

We have been advocating strongly, including through co-hosting events in the European Parliament such as “A wake-up call: Key trends and policy asks in CVH for women and girls” in March 2025, as well through strong engagement from our National Cardiac Societies (NCS) with ministries of health. The latter led to successful adoption of the ‘Council Conclusions on the Improvement of CVH in the EU’ by all EU27 ministers of health in December 2024, which included a call for countries to adopt/update CVH measures in a stand-alone framework or in wider frameworks covering non-communicable diseases.

Hungary and Poland held the Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2024 (July – December) and 2025 (January – June), respectively, with each hosting a high-level presidency event on CVH featuring prominent speakers from the ESC and National Cardiac Societies.

We have continued to make our voice heard on crucial legislative files and regulatory documents which have a direct impact on the clinical and research activities of our members and, thus, on cardiovascular disease patients.

These include the evaluation of the EU Medical Device Regulation and the definition of a new EU legal framework for electronic health data (European Health Data Space). For the latter, the experience gained from cardiovascular registries could contribute defining new standards and harmonised templates in the Union.

A high-level meeting with the European Medicines Agency took place in June 2024 and ESC volunteers participated in over 15 stakeholder group events held by EU institutions. Providing expert input in response to over 10 key regulatory consultations, we contributed to evidence-based policymaking across the pharmaceutical, digital health, and medical device fields. This was achieved in collaboration with relevant ESC Committees, Associations, Working Groups, and Councils.

Cardiovascular Round Table

The Cardiovascular Round Table (CRT) continued to be a key forum for strategic dialogue between ESC Board Members and the 23 industry partners. This forum is chaired by the ESC President-Elect and an Industry Co-Chair, elected by the industry members.

Their overarching goal is to act as a catalyst, connecting professionals, industry, and relevant third parties to advance our objective of enhancing cardiovascular health through research, innovation, advocacy, and education.

The CRTs also provide a political platform to achieve widespread recognition for the importance of cardiovascular health in Europe. Insights from CRT discussions help shape our strategic priorities and the future direction of the ESC.

Outcomes

In 2024–2025, CRT meetings tackled timely topics including:

- Device innovation in cardiovascular medicine (in Brussels)
- Guidelines implementation (in Frankfurt and Vienna)
- Artificial intelligence in cardiovascular care (in Zurich and Paris)
- Unmet medical needs and patient-reported outcomes (in Amsterdam)

Each session informed ESC strategy and fed into new collaborative initiatives, including publications, policy proposals, and cross-sector research.



ESC Patient Engagement

A focus on person-centred healthcare remained a guiding aim across our activities.

During the year, 12 new ESC Patient Forum members were recruited. They comprised 45 patients from 21 countries across Europe. We are proud to report that the forum achieved gender balance.

In September 2024, an ESC Patient Forum representative was added for the first time to an ESC Subspecialty Association Board: the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions (ACNAP). Representatives can also be found on seven ESC board committees and six subspecialty association committees.

Training in storytelling and presenting was provided to forum members to equip them with the skills to deliver powerful patient perspective talks.

At ESC Congress 2024:

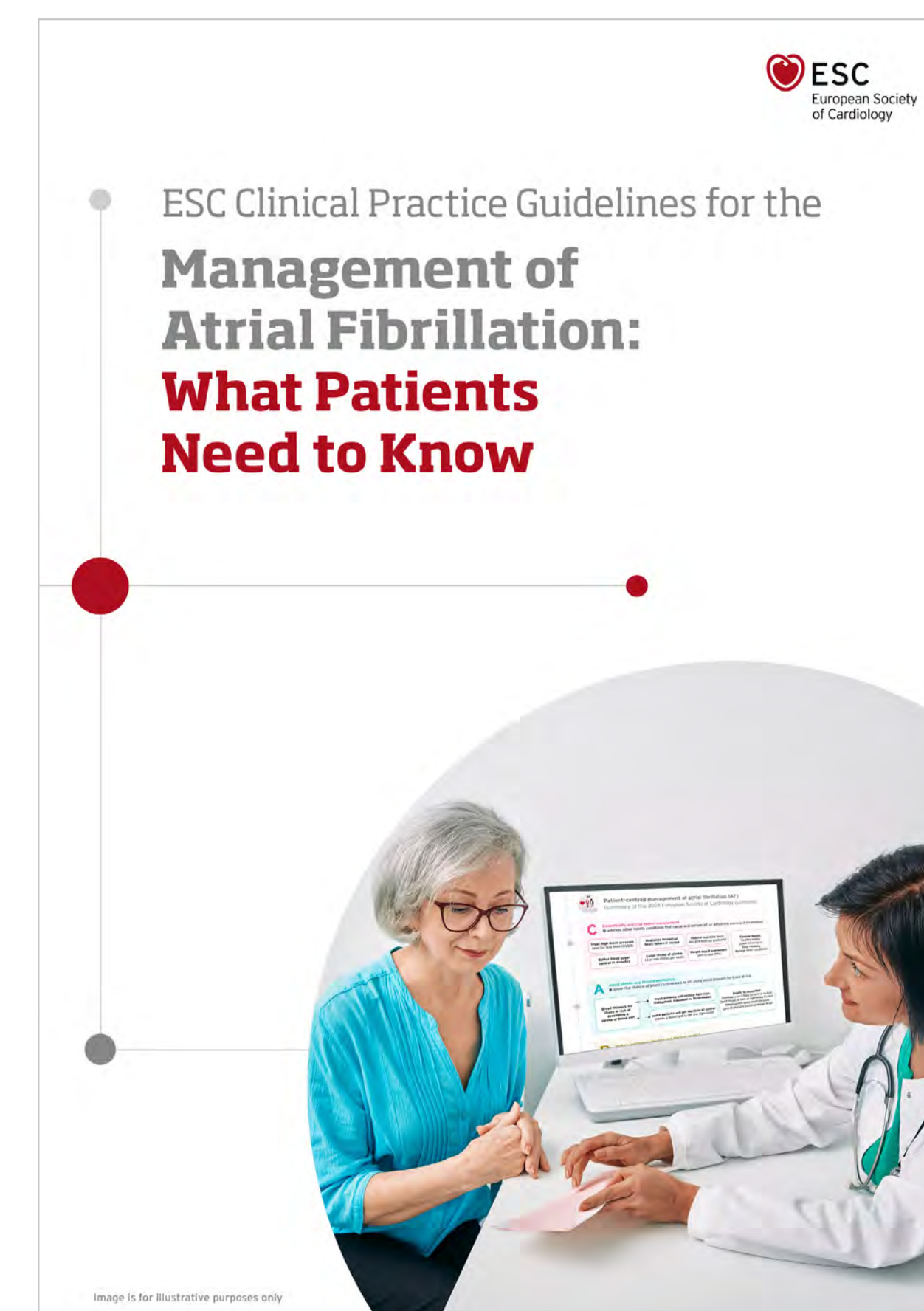
- In the Scientific Programme, a Patient Perspective track featured 23 sessions
- 18 Patient Forum members participated in sessions
- A 'Patient Central' stand was included in the ESC Lounge & Exchange Area

Patients were integrated into several subspecialty congresses: EHRA 2024, ESC Preventive Cardiology 2024, ACNAP 2024, and the Radical Health Festival.

ESC Cardiovascular Round Tables, ESC Spring Summit, and the International Women's Day Event at the European Parliament included patients who shared their perspectives.



Patient Resources



Two new patient versions of ESC Guidelines were released in the year:

2024 Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines

2024 Elevated Blood Pressure and Hypertension Guidelines

Research



The EuroHeart initiative continues to build momentum, bringing together a growing number of countries and institutions to improve cardiovascular care through harmonised data collection and analysis. In 2024, EuroHeart released its annual report based on 2023 ACS-PCI data from eight countries and over 60,000 patients – a major step toward a truly pan-European registry network.

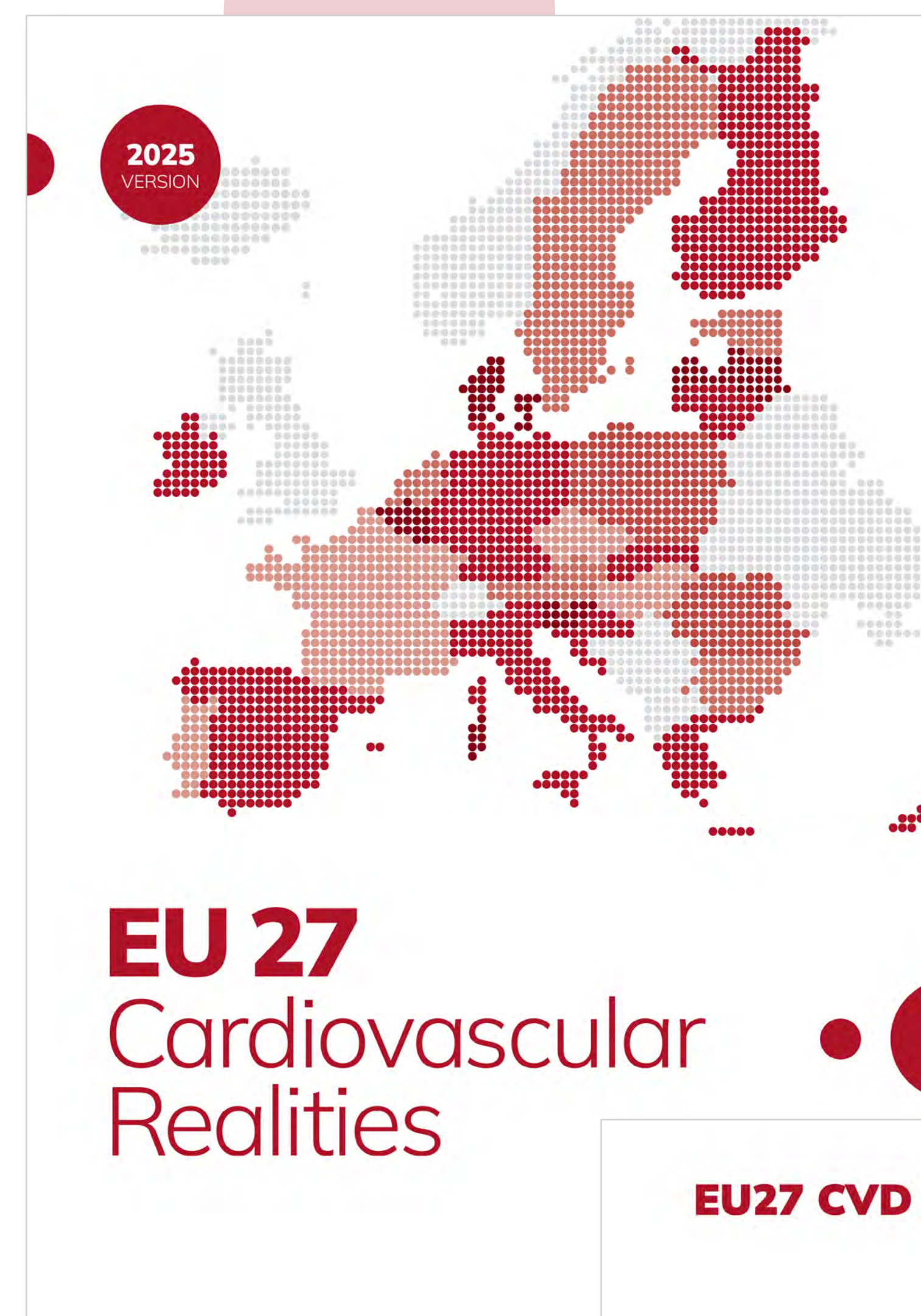
Looking ahead, annual reports will expand into new disease domains such as TAVI, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation. This programme is the cornerstone of the ESC's efforts to support the development of an international network of continuous registries in the cardiovascular area, to help target actionable improvements in care thanks to real-world data.

ESC Atlas

The fourth edition of the ESC Atlas of Cardiology – the 2023 Atlas of Cardiovascular Disease Statistics – was a significant publication that revealed ongoing inequalities in care and outcomes across ESC member countries. Drawing on global and national data, it highlighted disparities between middle- and high-income nations, underscoring the need for targeted action.

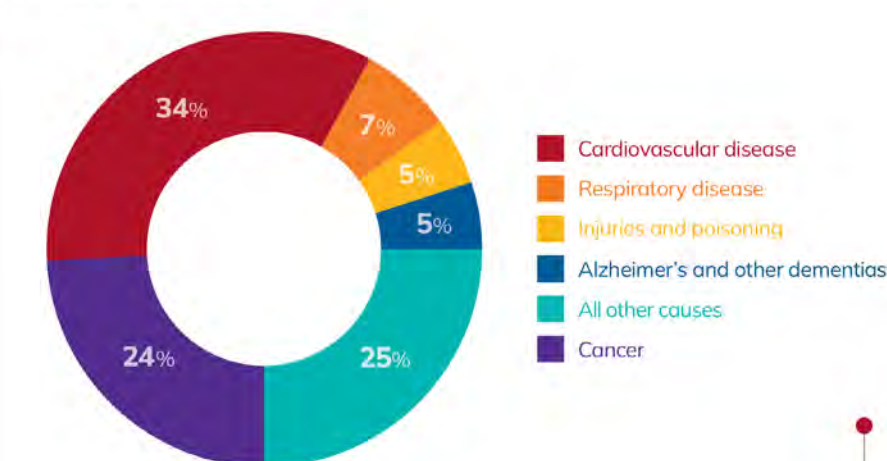
Building on this data, we published the Cardiovascular Realities 2024 booklet, which translated these findings into clear messages for decision-makers, showing CVD remains the leading cause of death among ESC member countries, with over three million deaths and a €282 billion economic burden in the EU alone.

Furthermore, the EU 27 Cardiovascular Realities 2025 booklet was also made available, providing updated insights specifically for the EU 27 member states, a key document to support our advocacy efforts in Europe.



EU27 CVD DATA

Causes of death in EU27



• CVD is the #1 killer in the EU

• Approximately 1 in every 3 deaths in the EU are caused by CVD

• Around 4,600 people die every day in the EU from CVD

62 MILLION

In the EU27 countries, the total number of people living with cardiovascular diseases today.

GRASP

The Global Registries and Surveys Programme (GRASP) continued to expand and completed the recruitment for both HF Snapshot (46 countries, 283 centres, 11,511 patients) and CCS Snapshot (29 countries, 145 centres, 5,403 patients). Recruitment for EuroAspire VI Registry is ongoing and will stop at the end of June 2025 with an objective of 8,000 patients (27 countries).

Each of our registries and studies provides critical real-world evidence to support the overall objectives of the programme, with the main one being to evaluate the implementation of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines in routine care.



EU-Funded Projects

The ESC contributed to a wide array of EU-funded projects, advancing innovation across care pathways, data science, and public health. We are currently running a total of 13 projects.



The seven-year **PAPAartis project**, that was to have concluded in September 2024, focused on reducing disabilities from aortic aneurysm repair and addressing fears that often delay treatment. We led this project in formulating the work package of the Data Safety Monitoring Board, contributing to efforts that will now support global adoption of evidence-based strategies helping experts improve outcomes for future patients. The project has received extra funding from the German Research Foundation to continue the work on the clinical trial until June 2025.



DORIAN GRAY, a project exploring the connection between cardiovascular disease (CVD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI), kicked off in January 2025 with €11 million in funding from the EU's Horizon Europe programme. The project uses pioneering AI and avatar technology to uncover links between cardiovascular disease and mild cognitive impairment in order to improve healthy ageing and survival. The ESC and its constituent body, the Heart Failure Association (HFA), are leading the project's communication and dissemination efforts to ensure its visibility and impact on various subgroups of the European population, including patients with CVD.



EuroHeartPath

EuroHeartPath, launched in February 2025, is a five-year project with a budget of €28 million, of which €15 million is funded by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI-JU) and €13 million is committed by industry. The aim is to enhance early detection, personalise treatment, and optimise care from primary to hospital settings. We play a key role in the project by contributing to the mapping and analysis of existing care pathways, supporting large-scale clinical research and advancing understanding of cardiomyopathies and myocarditis. It will also enhance the ESC Atlas and Burden of Disease project by conducting thorough qualitative and quantitative evaluations of existing care pathways in 15 EU countries while shaping policy recommendations by leading the communication and dissemination efforts. ACNAP will also be involved in delivering educational activities.



During the year, we were granted two multiple projects to kick off in May 2025: **ERIS** (European Research Institute on Simulation) and **GREG** (testing, improving, and co-creating guidance and tools to generate real-world evidence for use in decision-making in Europe).



Launched in January 2020, CoroPrevention is a seven-year project that has received nearly €20 million of Horizon 2020 funding to identify the lifestyle changes and medications needed by individual patients with coronary heart disease to prevent recurrent cardiovascular events. At its core is a large-scale randomised trial led by the ESC, testing a personalised prevention programme designed by the European Association of Preventive Cardiology (EAPC) in 12,000 high-risk patients across six EU countries. As the trial progresses, new sites in Slovakia, Belgium, and Greece were recently added, further expanding the project's reach and reinforcing its ambition to deliver scalable, personalised prevention strategies across Europe.

Guidelines

2024 marked the 30th anniversary of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines – globally recognised tools that continue to shape evidence-based care.

Newly Published Guidelines

Four new guidelines were published:

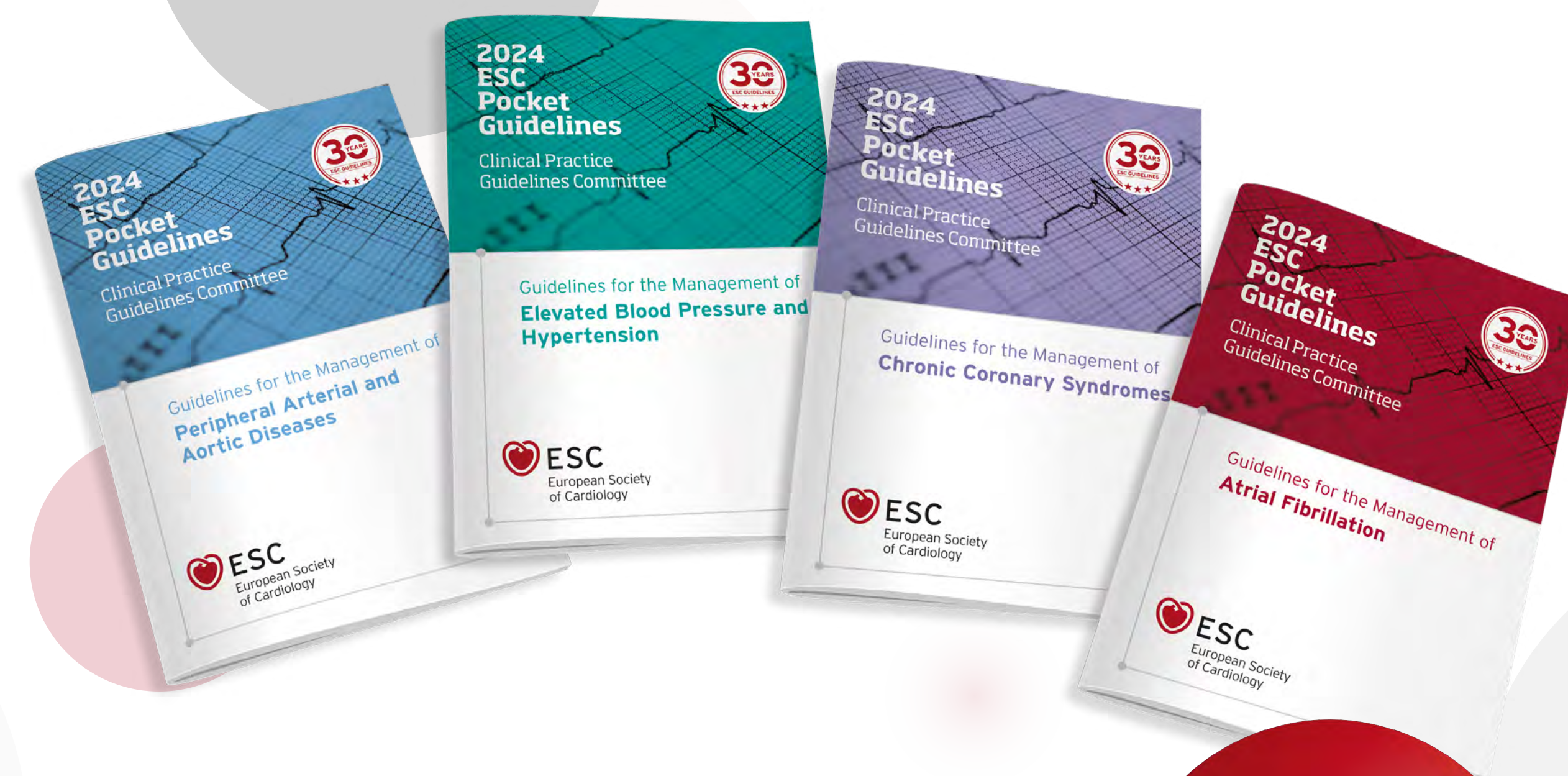
- Elevated blood pressure and hypertension
- Peripheral arterial and aortic diseases
- Atrial fibrillation
- Chronic coronary syndromes

Development of Future Guidelines

We launched an open call for Task Force participation for the 2027 guideline cycle, receiving over 650 applications.



The ESC Pocket Guidelines App continues to grow in popularity, with over **164,000** users in **216** countries.



Scientific Documents

The ESC also supported the release of key subspecialty documents, including the EHRA/HRS/APHRS/LAHRs Expert Consensus on Atrial Fibrillation Ablation, led by Dr. Stelios Tzeis.

Expert Consensus on
Atrial Fibrillation Ablation



Publications

ESC Publications

For the first time since 2003 – when we had seven journals – the ESC entered into partnership to ensure all ESC journals are published by a single publisher. This multi-year agreement with Oxford University Press (OUP) applies to all of our ESC journals which supports quality, reach, and sustainability across our portfolio.

We are proud to publish five of the world's top 20 cardiovascular journals ranked by Impact Factor (IF). *The European Heart Journal* (IF 37.6) remains the leading society-published and original research journal, while the *European Journal of Heart Failure* ranks fourth with an IF of 16.9.

Three new editors-in-chief were appointed:

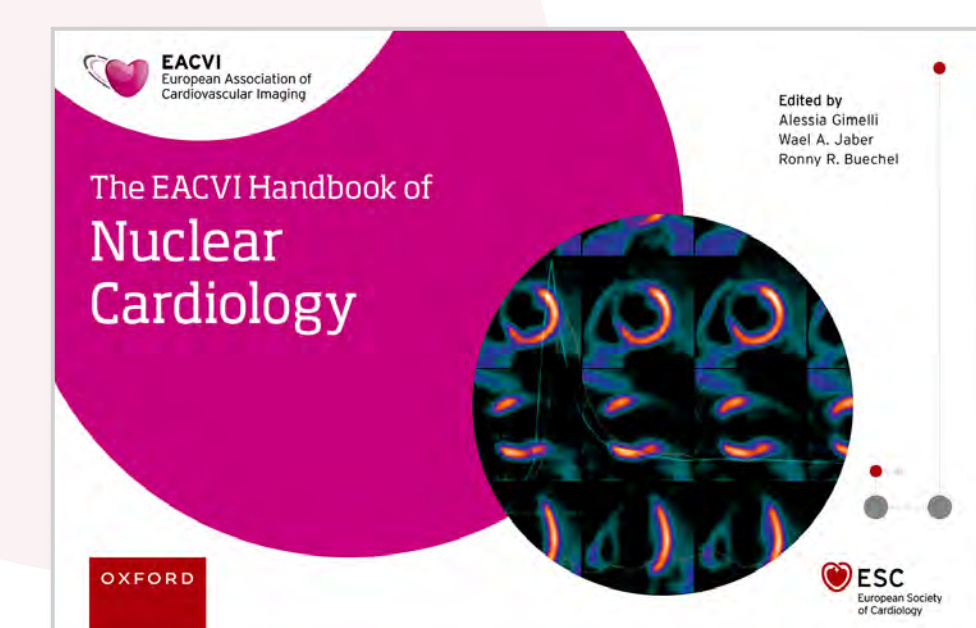
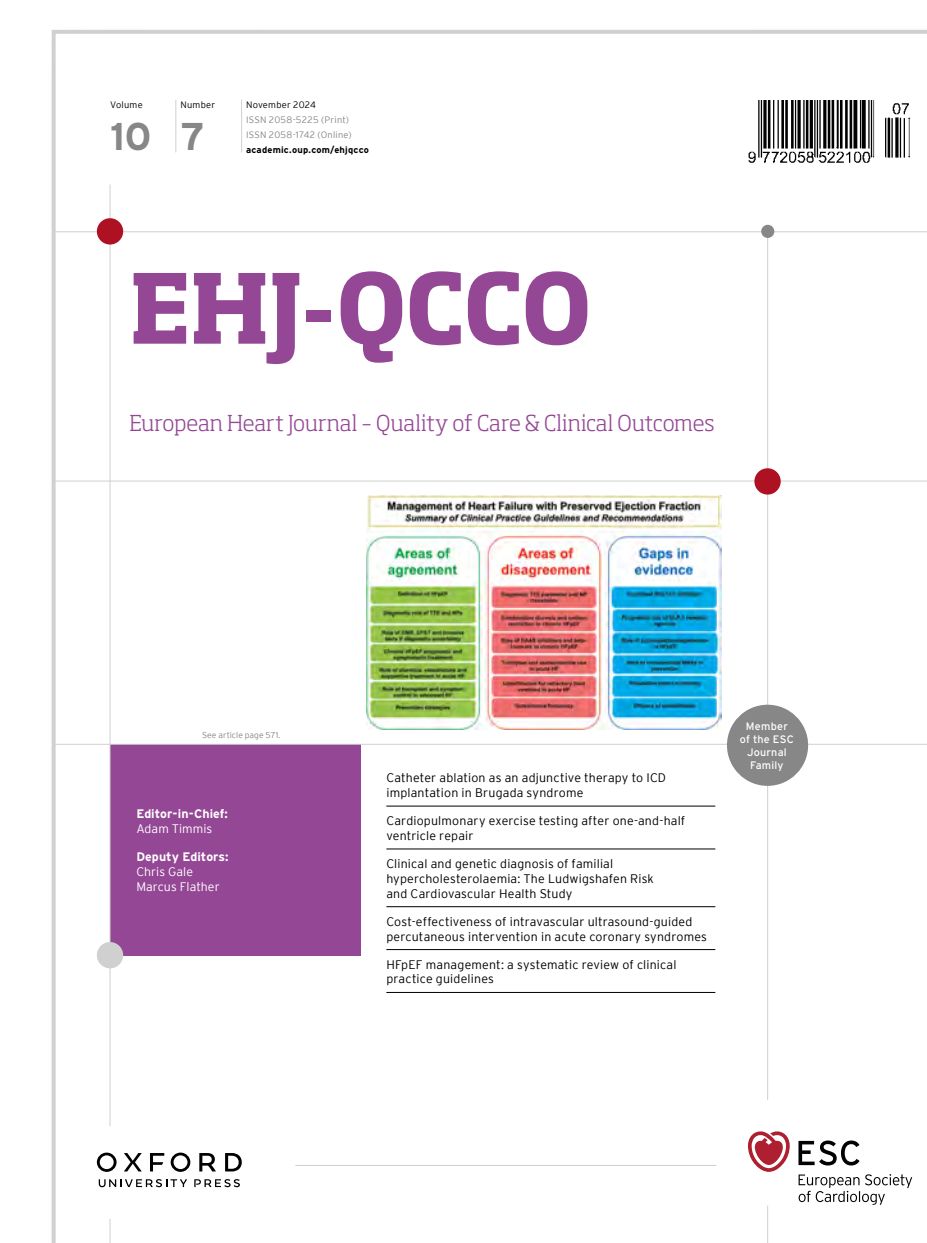
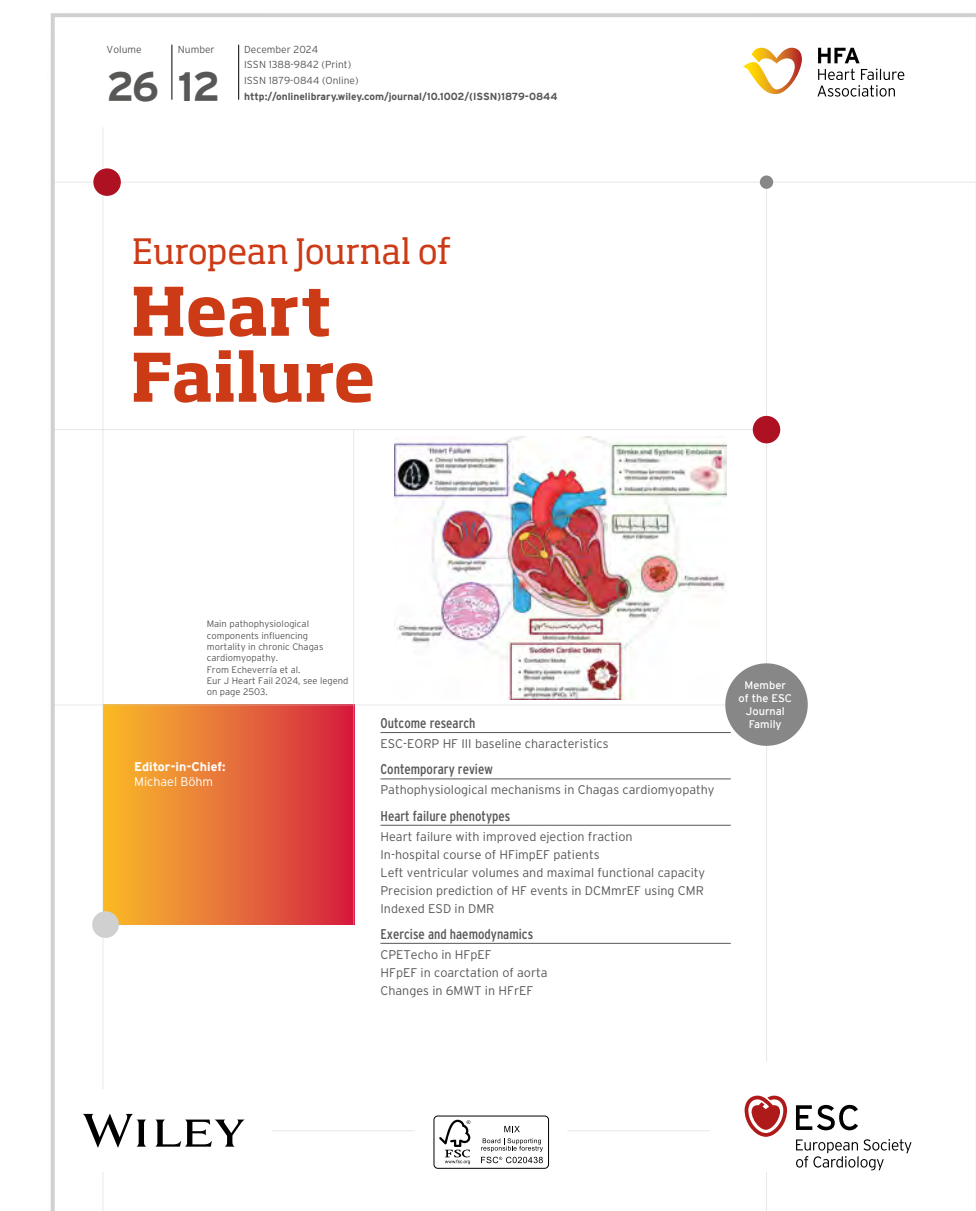
- Giuseppe Boriani: *EP-Europace* (EP)
- Bernhard Gerber: *EHJ-Cardiovascular Imaging* (EHJ-CVI)
- Massimo Piepoli: *EHJ-Quality of Care and Clinical Outcomes* (EHJ-QCCO)

We also published one new ESC book:

The EACVI Handbook of Nuclear Cardiology

New Journal Club

The ACVC Journal Club, launched in June 2024, provides fresh, case-based discussions on urgent care topics.





Career Development

ESC Education Highlights

FOCUS supported best practices and guideline implementation with curated monthly content through FOCUS, covering:

- Peripheral arterial and aortic disease
- Chronic coronary syndromes
- Atrial fibrillation
- Elevated blood pressure and hypertension
- Obesity and cardiovascular disease
- Diagnosis and management of myocardial disease in cardio-oncology and cardiogenic shock
- Acute mechanical circulatory support

AortiCare

A joint ESC and ACNAP initiative, the new AortiCare educational programme supports earlier diagnosis and better care of aortic stenosis.

AortiCare addresses key challenges that healthcare professionals face in the care of patients with aortic stenosis, by providing cutting-edge knowledge and resources to help general cardiologists, interventionalists and nurses improve the care pathway and patient outcomes.

With multilingual webinars, an eLearning course, and a toolkit, the four webinars are currently available on demand on ESC 365 and open to everyone.

Webinars

During the year, 74 webinars were presented, averaging 859 registrants and 353 live attendees per event. 7,000 individuals attended at least one of the 74 webinars.

The highest-attended webinar

The 12-lead ECG in different aetiologies of structural heart disease” was the most attended webinar, produced by the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), and attracting 826 participants.

Staying Agile and Encouraging Innovation

To meet the needs of our community, the ESC Education Team launched a new online educational catalogue, which includes more custom-made, live-event formats and features such as discussion lounges, live and on-demand subtitles, as well as collaborative webinars.

Courses

ESC Education organised 14 courses.

ACVC School

This popular school programme took place in November 2024. The event saw 80 participants and the launch of an ACVC School Alumni programme.



eLearning

The European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI) has developed a dedicated series of nine educational courses, tailored for nurses and allied health professionals working in cath labs.

These courses provide a consistent, high-quality learning experience, equipping participants with the advanced knowledge and skills they need to operate at an advanced level.

EHRA Online Course on SVT Ablation, launched at the end of 2024, is an exciting addition to our educational offerings.



Certification and Accreditation

European Exam in Core Cardiology (EECC)



The European Examination in Core Cardiology is an international assessment designed to test the core knowledge of cardiology specialty trainees required for independent practice. It complements workplace-based assessments and is based on current evidence-based guidelines and research.

- EECC 2024 was delivered in June to 909 participants, a 5% increase compared with the previous year
- Candidates came from 60 countries and represented 28 National Cardiac Societies, 3 Affiliated Cardiac Societies, and 2 Global Partners
- We were pleased to welcome participants from Estonia, Libya, and South Africa for the first time

Subspecialty Certification

Our ESC Subspecialty Association Certification Programmes offer structured assessments for cardiologists pursuing certification in specific areas of cardiology.

- 20 exams were delivered to 2,386 candidates from 107 countries, a 9% increase compared with the previous year
- Top participating countries: UK, Germany, the Netherlands
- Skills assessment: 1,170 logbook applications were graded
- Recertification: 744 applications were graded

Accreditation

Through our Accreditation Programmes, we help ensure that institutions meet high standards of care across cardiology subspecialties. These programmes evaluate centres based on clearly defined structural criteria to promote consistent, high-quality care and optimal outcomes for patients.

- 40 centres/labs were accredited or reaccredited
- 56 centres had their accreditation confirmed under the ICARe-HF quality of care programme, with real-world evidence on quality of care collected through the GRASP HF snapshot. ICARe-HF is the first innovative accreditation programme linking certification to registries (GRASP).



European Heart Academy – ESC Postgraduate Programmes

At the European Heart Academy, we partner with top universities to deliver high-level academic programmes that shape the future leaders of cardiovascular medicine. Our postgraduate degrees – focused on both specialised and transversal skills – support healthcare professionals in advancing their careers while actively contributing to our shared ESC mission.

- **The MSc in Clinical Trials (Oxford):** 5th intake, 21 students, 3 fee grants. We continued to support access to the programme by awarding tuition fee grants to three outstanding students
- **MSc in Health Economics (LSE):** 10th intake, 20 students, with five scholarships to the top-ranked applicants, reaffirming the ESC Academy's commitment to supporting excellence

The ESC Academy alumni network now includes 730 members from 58 countries, with new tools launched for collaboration, research, and engagement.



MSc in Clinical Trials

Get a Master's Degree from the University of Oxford

- > Principles of randomised trials
- > Design to implementation
- > Data management and analysis
- > Clinical Trials regulation and ethical framework

www.europeanheartacademy.org

Nuffield Department of Population Health

ESC Training Group Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy

ESC Training Group Cardiovascular Epidemiology

Clinical Practice Tools

Our trusted EAPC tools continue to support daily practice and remain widely used by healthcare professionals across Europe and beyond.

- **ESC Mobile App – CVD Risk Calculation** was downloaded **96,303** times in 2024 (+27% vs. 2023)
- **HeartScore.org** recorded over 450K sessions and 273K risk assessments. Score2-Asia was developed in 2024 with the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (APSC) and ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Federation of Cardiology (AFC)

At ESC Acute CardioVascular Care 2025, ACVC launched a fully updated version of its Clinical Decision-Making Toolkit – now featuring new chapters aligned with the latest ESC Guidelines.

The ACVC's AcuteCVDays campaign in May 2024 drew nearly 3,000 unique visitors to its web page focused on device therapy, offering clear recommendations to support acute cardiovascular care across the community.



OPEN STAGE

Digitalization and clinical decision tools

ESC Acute CardioVascular Care 2025

Reich C

The presentation features three graphs: Graph A shows the growth of mobile health devices from 2005 to 2020, highlighting the integration of GPS sensors, PPG measurement, and 1-lead ECG. Graph B shows the prevalence of ACS, VHF, KHK, and HI from 2000 to 2020. Graph C shows the prevalence of Imaging and Wearables from 2000 to 2020.

Knowledge

ESC TV Today

We remain committed to delivering the most pertinent and up-to-date information in cardiovascular medicine via ESC TV Today. Continuing with strong momentum and growth from the previous season, Season 3 of ESC TV Today averaged over 17,000 views per episode.

Our popular series offers in-depth discussions on current and emerging topics in cardiology, succinct expert analyses, professional insights, summaries of the latest scientific publications, and interviews with some of the most distinguished figures in cardiovascular healthcare. ESC TV Today is increasingly recognised as a trusted source for authoritative news and developments in the field.

ESC Cardio Talk Podcast

2024: **12** podcasts released

Total IAB downloads: **31,542**

Average downloads per podcast: **2,103**

Our latest addition to the ESC podcast family, Cardio Talk: Latest Research, was launched in July 2024, showcasing cutting-edge developments in cardiovascular medicine. Featuring expert-led discussions on topics like medical device regulation, AI, and cardiotoxicity in cancer care, the series aims to make high-impact scientific findings more accessible. A total of nine episodes were created to translate complex research into engaging, informative conversations.



ESC 365

In 2024, ESC 365 - our online cardiology knowledge hub, recorded **1.7 million** resource consultations and over **1.1 million** page views reaching nearly **80,000** unique users, which is a strong signal of sustained demand for trusted, high-value content. To meet these expectations and unlock new value, the platform is evolving from episodic engagement to continuous connection, becoming a dynamic, personalised knowledge hub.

AI-powered solutions, including intelligent search, adaptive recommendations, and real-time insights, are now in development. These innovations will transform how healthcare professionals engage with ESC 365, making content discovery faster, journeys more intuitive, and access to knowledge more relevant than ever before. By learning from user preferences and behaviour, the platform will continuously refine what content is surfaced and when, creating a smarter, more responsive experience. This shift moves beyond traditional browsing, unlocking deeper interaction, broader discovery, and a new level of personalisation.

More than a technical upgrade, this transformation marks a strategic shift from content delivery to intelligent knowledge navigation. ESC 365 is building a smarter experience that aligns with how today's clinicians search, think, and make decisions.

Governance

A New Mandate

In accordance with its statutes, the ESC completed the election process leading to the complete changeover of the ESC Board and its Committees on 2 September 2024, as well as the creation of three new ESC Committees:

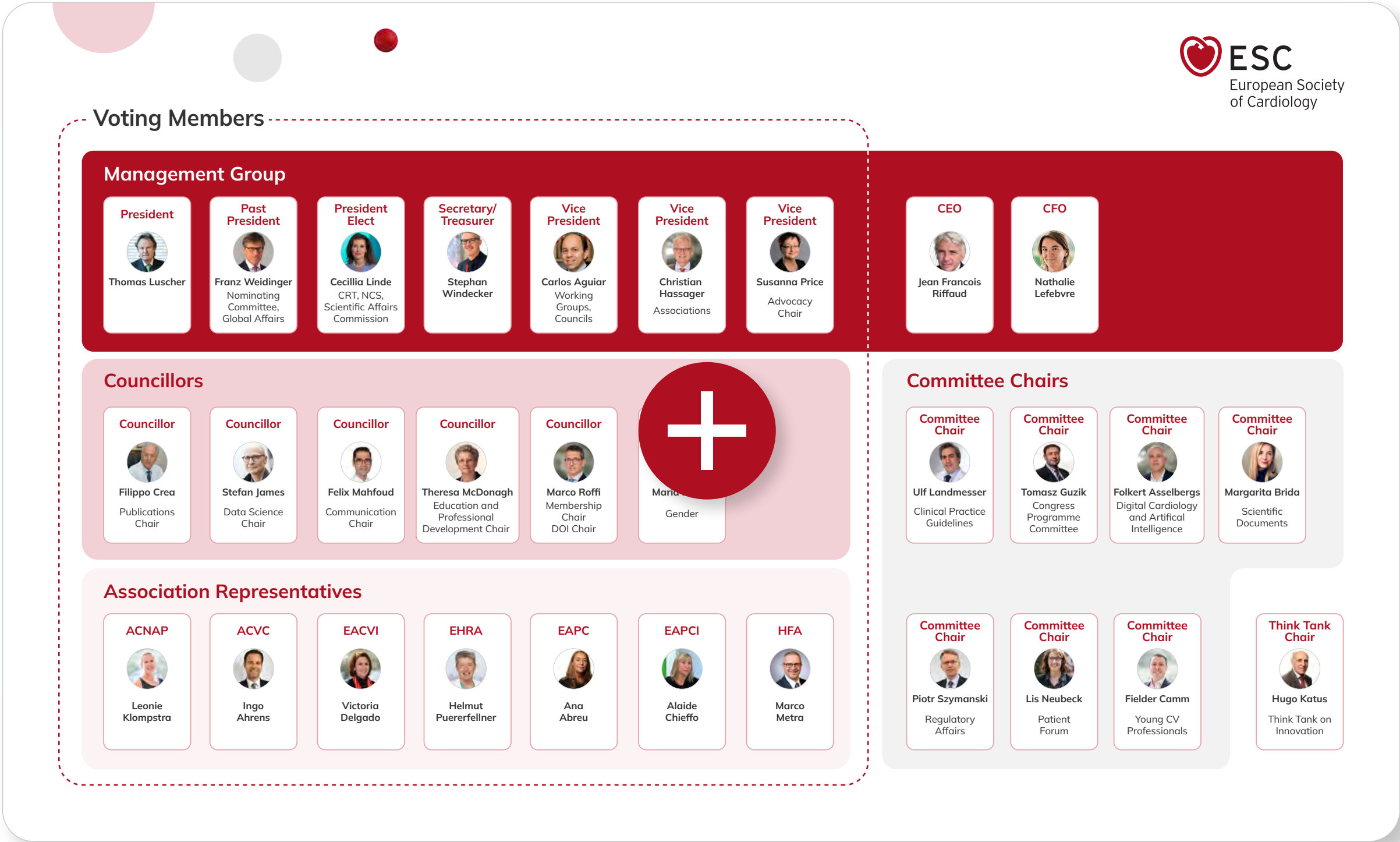
- Data Science
- Membership
- Digital Cardiology and Artificial Intelligence

Five new ESC Task Forces were formed on the topics of:

- Gender
- Environment and Sustainability
- North Africa/Middle East
- Eastern Countries
- EuroAsia

The 2024–2026 ESC Board was supported by the ESC Executive Management Team (COMEX) during the reporting period.

ESC Board 2024-2026 seats as per statutes



ESC Executive Management Team COMEX



Compliance

ESC Bylaws

ESC Bylaws were developed and approved by the ESC Board in August 2024. They supplement the Statutes of the European Society of Cardiology. Their purpose is to specify internal rules and regulations of the ESC. These Bylaws apply to all ESC Constituent Bodies, as well as ESC Members, volunteers, officers and staff.

Association Rules of Governance

As a single legal entity, the ESC requires all its internal Constituent Bodies to adhere to the same principles of good governance. Association Bylaws approved by the ESC Board in August 2023 were renamed 'Associations Rules of Governance' and updated to align with ESC Bylaws. Rules of Governance for ESC Councils and Working Groups will also be reviewed. In case of discrepancies between ESC Bylaws and ESC Associations, Working Groups or Councils rules of governance, ESC Bylaws prevail.

Oath of Office Campaigns

As per the ESC Ethical Conduct Policy (Annex II of ESC Bylaws), 'any person elected, appointed or invited to the ESC Board, to any ESC Internal Constituent Body, a Committee, Task Force, or other activity and/or whose role represents an official ESC position is required to sign the ESC Oath of Office before entry into service.' In the reporting period, several Oath of Office signature campaigns were launched reaching out to 2,295 individuals required to sign the Oath of Office.

Governance Task Force Deliverables

An ESC Governance Task Force was approved by the ESC Board in July 2023 to audit the structure, authority and responsibilities, as well as decision-making processes within the ESC. The task force provided its recommendations to the ESC Board in July 2024, organised in two phases:

- **Phase 1** - Review legal and compliance regulations, simplify and clarify our decision-making processes and communications to improve ESC operations.
- **Phase 2** - Modify the organisational structure to adapt to the evolving cardiovascular field and to improve the relevance and performance of our organisation.

This task force will continue to implement these recommendations during its 2024–2026 mandate.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee has an advisory role to the ESC Management Group and Board. The committee issues general recommendations on ethical principles of professional and scientific conduct within – or with impact on – the ESC.

The committee manages specific issues of potential professional, scientific or personal misconduct of individual members or internal constituent bodies related to the ESC activities or functions.

The ESC Ethics Committee conducts its activities in accordance with a charter approved by the Board of the ESC. It comprises ESC expert volunteer members, non-ESC legal and ethics experts, as well as representatives from the ESC Patient Forum and the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions.

Declaration of Interest (DOI) Policy

In the reporting period, the ESC collected 3,424 Declarations of Interest (DOI) from ESC volunteers working on ESC Task Forces or Committees. This generated 13,640 DOI reviews performed by a total of 380 reviewers in compliance with the processes established in the ESC Declaration and Management of Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

Following review, 55 volunteers were asked to step down from their ESC positions because their declarations did not comply with the ESC DOI Policy.

ESC Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides oversight of financial and general governance in compliance with relevant policies and procedures. Particular attention is given to approval of the yearly financial statements, the assessment of risks, the management of financial assets, and the implementation of the Declaration of Interest Policy. The Audit Committee also validates the checks and balances of the general governance of the ESC.

The Audit Committee consists of five members, three of them external with experience in business, law, financial affairs, marketing, and other professions. This external expertise ensures that best practices are implemented and that no prejudice or bias affects their decisions and deliberations. The other two members are elected and are ESC volunteers, representing National Cardiac Societies, ESC Associations, Councils and Working Groups.

The Audit Committee reports directly to the ESC General Assembly, further strengthening the Audit Committee's independence within the ESC structure.

The Audit Committee included the following actions and recommendations:

1. Approve the 2024–2025 financial statements
2. Support the evolution of a mid- and long-term budget
3. Regularly monitor (monthly) the ESC financial situation, with particular attention to the medium-term investments, while complying with the low risk and capital preservation profile set in the existing Financial Policy
4. Regularly monitor the full implementation of the Declaration of Interest Policy
5. Follow up tender of ESC Auditors
6. Support the ESC Board on Governance Topics: revision of subspecialty rules of governance, update of Code of Conduct, increasing and full transparency on delegation of authority and decision-making (who/for what/when) and accountability with improved monitoring of performance. This monitoring now includes the ESC Gender Policy



The image features a laptop on a dark surface, its screen displaying various financial charts. A large, semi-transparent red circle is positioned over the center of the laptop screen. Inside this circle, the words "Financial Report" are written in a white, serif font. The background is a dark, moody scene with a warm light source on the left, creating a gradient from blue to orange. In the background, there are faint, glowing lines and shapes that resemble financial data or abstract art. The overall aesthetic is modern and tech-oriented.

Financial Report

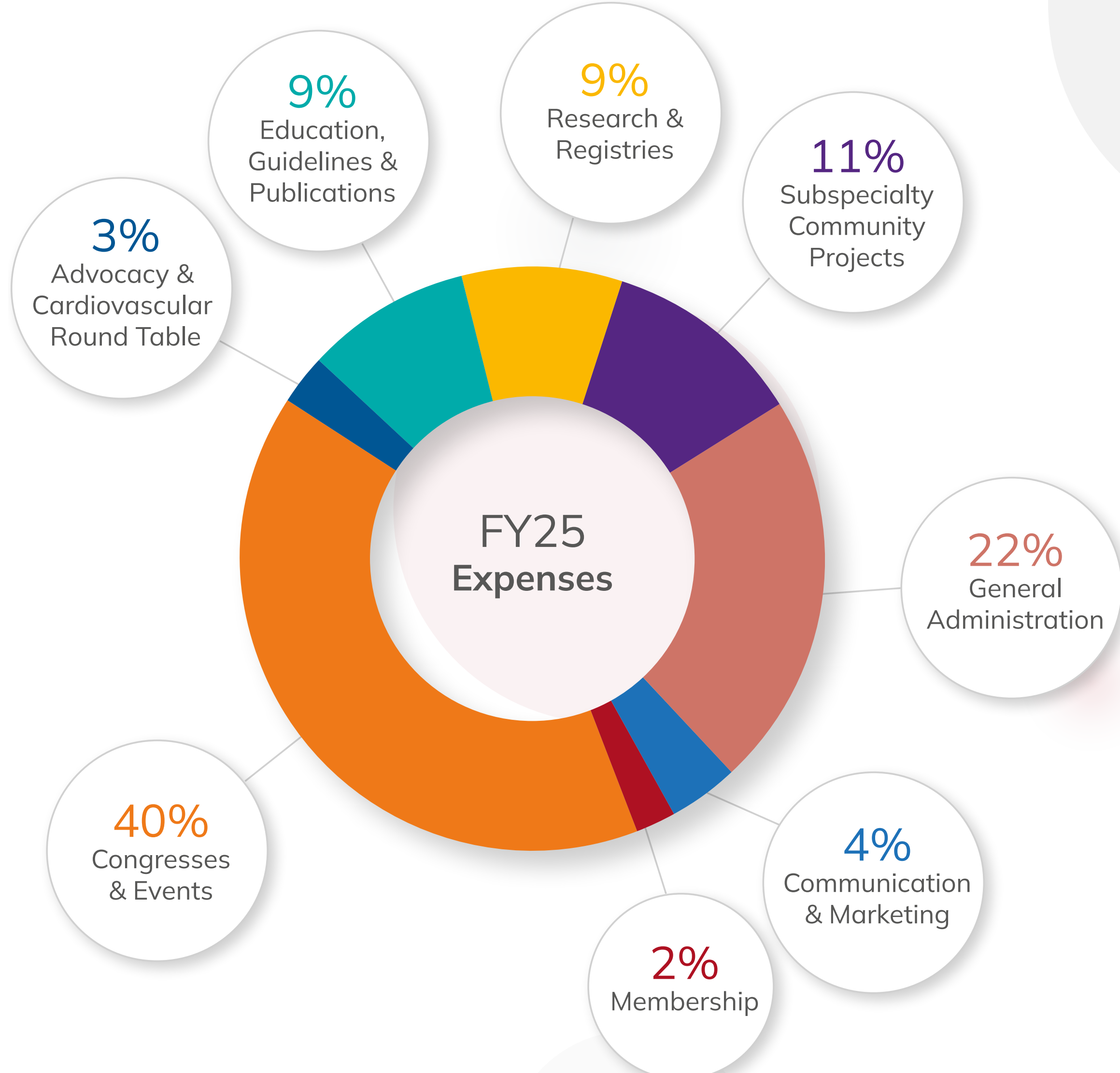
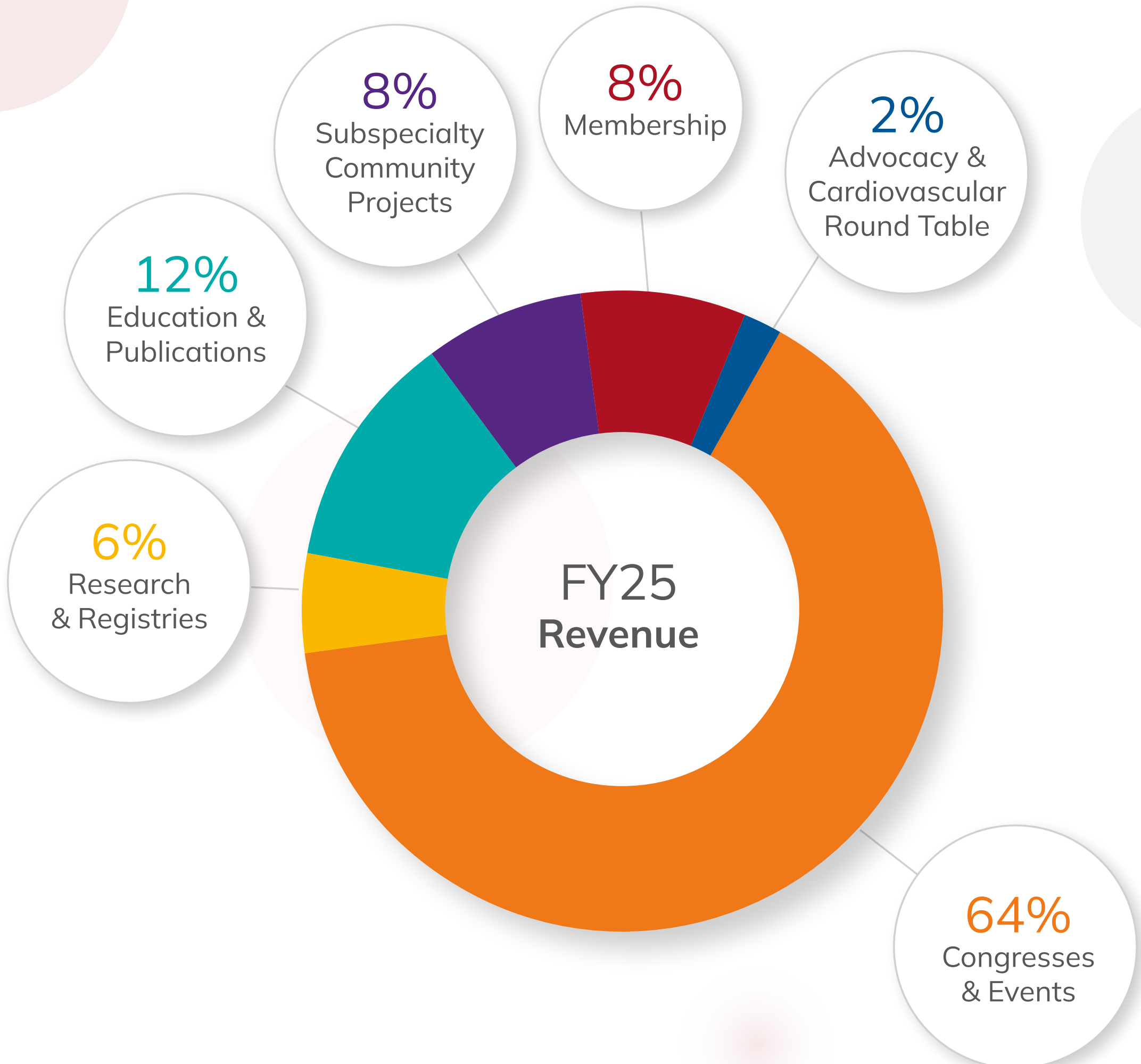
Governance

Secretary Treasurer's Report

The activities of the European Society of Cardiology are shared between two legal entities:

- The European Society of Cardiology, which is a not-for-profit professional medical association and learned society which engages in revenue-generating activities such as congresses, journals and membership
- The Maison Européenne du Coeur, a real estate property company which owns the European Heart House, campus and surrounding land.

The figures reported below concern both entities, prepared in accordance with French GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), certified by the Statutory Auditors and reviewed by the Audit Committee for the fiscal year ended March 2025.



Auditor's Report

Société Européenne de Cardiologie S.E.C.

Year ended March 31, 2025

Statutory auditor's report on the consolidated financial statements

To the Annual General Meeting of S.E.C.,

Opinion

In compliance with the engagement entrusted to us by your annual general meeting, we have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of S.E.C. for the year ended March 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities and of the financial position of the Group as at March 31, 2025 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with French accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

- **Audit Framework**

We conducted our audit in accordance with professional standards applicable in France. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report.

- **Independence**

We conducted our audit engagement in compliance with the independence requirements of the French Commercial Code (Code de commerce) and the French Code of Ethics for Statutory Auditors (Code de déontologie de la profession de commissaire aux comptes) for the period from April 1, 2024 to the date of our report.

Justification of Assessments

In accordance with the requirements of Articles L. 821-53 and R. 821-180 of the French Commercial Code (Code de commerce) relating to the justification of our assessments, we inform you that, in our professional judgment, the most significant assessments we made were related to the appropriateness of the accounting policies used.

These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on specific items of the consolidated financial statements.

Specific verifications

We have also performed, in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the specific verifications required by laws and regulations of the information relating to the Group given in the Board of Directors' financial report.

We have no matters to report as to its fair presentation and its consistency with the consolidated financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with French accounting principles and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is expected to liquidate the Association or to cease operations.

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors.

Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our role is to issue a report on the consolidated financial statements. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As specified in Article L. 821-55 of the French Commercial Code (Code de commerce), our statutory audit does not include assurance on the viability of the Association or the quality of management of the affairs of the Association.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the statutory auditor exercises professional judgment throughout the audit and furthermore:

- Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence considered to be sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for his opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtains an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management in the consolidated financial statements.
- Assesses the appropriateness of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of his audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern. If the statutory auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, there is a requirement to draw attention in the audit report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are not provided or inadequate, to modify the opinion expressed therein.
- Evaluates the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements and assesses whether these statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtains sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. The statutory auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the consolidated financial statements and for the opinion expressed on these consolidated financial statements.

Nice, July 7, 2025

The Statutory Auditor
French original signed by
ERNST & YOUNG Audit
Matthieu Pruvost

This is a translation into English of the statutory auditor's report on the consolidated financial statements of the Association issued in French and it is provided solely for the convenience of English-speaking users.

This statutory auditor's report includes information required by French law, such as the verification of the information concerning the Group presented in the financial report.

This report should be read in conjunction with, and construed in accordance with, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

EMA Tables

Fiscal year ended March 2025

Based on European Medicines Agency guidelines, the overall proportion of industry and non-industry income is detailed below, considering the highest contribution from a single company represents 3.6% of the overall income.

INDUSTRY RELATED INCOME		
Name of company/ funder	Amount of income - Euros	% of organisation's overall income
Congresses	23,986,602	40,0%
Education & Certification	3,085,017	5,1%
Studies and registers	2,436,114	4,1%
Other seminars	1,704,654	2,8%
Miscellaneous: sponsoring for CRT, sub-specialties fellowship training, derivative products...	504,304	0,8%
SUBTOTAL:	31,716,691	52,9%
NON-INDUSTRY RELATED INCOME		
Name of company/ funder	Amount of income - Euros	% of organisation's overall income
Congresses	14,011,528	23,4%
Journal royalties	6,652,295	11,1%
Membership fees	4,783,160	8,0%
Education & Certification	1,706,180	2,8%
Grants	556,828	0,9%
Other seminars	46,125	0,1%
Others	511,324	0,9%
SUBTOTAL:	28,267,440	47,1%
TOTAL:	59,984,131	100%



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

European Society of Cardiology

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escardio.org