



fighting heart disease
and stroke
european heart network

Press release – Embargo: 14 February 2017, 00.01h

Cardiovascular disease costs the EU €210 billion a year

According to a report issued this St. Valentine's day by the European Heart Network (EHN), cardiovascular disease now costs the EU economy €210 billion a year.

The report, the fifth edition of European Cardiovascular Disease Statistics, confirms that the fall in death rates from heart disease and stroke over recent decades is a sustainable trend. A development welcomed by the EHN which plays a leading role in the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular disease through advocacy, networking, capacity-building and patient support.

However, the report also confirms that considerable inequalities in the burden of these diseases persist across the European region.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality, prevalence, and disability-adjusted life year (DALY) rates are, on average, lower in the European Union (EU) than outside of the EU. Furthermore, rates of CVD mortality and morbidity, as well as the prevalence of several key risk factors, tend to be higher in Central and Eastern European countries than in their Northern, Western and Southern European counterparts.

Whereas we have been successful in reducing death rates, we have not eradicated heart diseases and stroke: more than 85 million people in Europe live with cardiovascular disease. Also over the past 25 years, the number of new CVD cases has been increasing. This results in a dramatic cost to our societies. In the EU, where about 49 million people live with these diseases, our report shows a total annual cost of €210 billion to the EU economy (this is 33% more than the entire EU budget for 2017).

The report also shows that levels of obesity remain high across Europe and prevalence of diabetes has increased rapidly over the last ten years, by more than 50% in some European countries. Therefore, the burden of cardiovascular diseases, both in terms of human suffering and economic costs, is unlikely to decrease.

Susanne Løgstrup, Director of the EHN says:

“Our report provides the most recent statistics related to CVD mortality, incidence, prevalence, causes and effects. It is designed for policy makers, health professionals, medical researchers and anyone else with an interest in cardiovascular diseases. We sincerely hope that the wealth of information it contains will lead political decision makers to re-assess their efforts to address cardiovascular diseases. We know that more can be done at both national and European level.”

Read the report here: <http://www.ehnheart.org/cvd-statistics/cvd-statistics-2017.html>

Note to editors:

About the European Heart Network

The European Heart Network (EHN) is a Brussels-based alliance of heart foundations and likeminded non-governmental organisations throughout Europe, with member organisations in 25 countries. The EHN plays a leading role in the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular diseases, in particular heart disease and stroke, through advocacy, networking, capacity-building and patient support, so that they are no longer a major cause of premature death and disability throughout Europe. www.ehnheart.org

For further information, contact Susanne Løgstrup, Director of the European Heart Network, Brussels, Tel +32 2 512 91 74 or email: slogstrup@ehnheart.org