

Silvio Basic Election Statement

It is a great honour and privilege to be a candidate for the ILAE-Europe Executive Board member. I have dedicated my entire professional life to serve the epilepsy community in every possible way, as best as I can. During my first term (2017-2021) I have focused on improvement of epilepsy management, education, advocacy and collaboration across Europe. Among others, I have been strongly involved in ILAE-IBE collaboration and advocacy for the WHO Action Plan for Epilepsy, InterReg video-EEG project NeurNet and organization of Migrating Course on Epilepsy. If elected, I will put all my efforts to improve the projects I have already started in the last term, focused on our common goals of improving epilepsy care, education and collaboration across Europe. My priorities for the next four years, if elected, will be:



Education

Education is a fundament of epilepsy care improvement, however the Covid-19 pandemic showed us insufficiencies of current educational concepts. I will strongly support and encourage organization of local and regional courses across Europe, in contrary to huge international congresses. Fewer number of local attendees and hybrid concept (on site/on line option) will ensure successful organization of such conferences even in unfavourable epidemiological conditions, and greater number of courses across Europe will fulfil regional educational needs.

More, I will encourage and support activities and programs aimed to facilitate training of young epileptologists, thoughtfully taking care about huge economic disparity and needs in our large ILAE-Europe region.

In past four years I have renewed Migration Course on Epilepsy, ILAE-Europe core teaching course for young epileptologists, and I will endeavour to organize it every year in different country with limited economic resources, bringing education to attendees where it is most needed.

Collaboration and networking across Europe

We are facing a great challenge in harmonisation of epilepsy care in Europe, especially regarding huge disparity of economic power among countries within European ILAE region. Covid 19 pandemic has even emphasised our differences, teaching us that collaboration and partnership are our greatest strengths.

I will use my current position as a state secretary for epilepsy advocacy in European Parliament, networking and encouraging new partnerships between epileptologists in different European regions. Collaboration should be focused not only on educational and professional goals but on mutual multiregional research projects founded by EU

funds as well, and I will use my experience in overcoming bureaucratic, technical and organizational obstacles to help in achieving such goals.

ILEA Europe region unites 47 diverse national chapters, covering a huge geographic region, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean and Arabian sea, with all its social, cultural, religious and economic diversity and common goal – prosperity for epilepsy community. Despite our common goal, our differences demand various, even quite opposite approaches in achieving it, which often cause misunderstanding and prevent good collaboration and partnership.

Living and working in region where richness and poorness meet, on the intersection of capitalism and communism, East and West with all its religious and socioeconomic diversity, I have learned how to understand differences, overcome them and use them as a new strength. Thus, if elected, I will direct all my efforts and experience towards establishing successful multiregional collaboration and partnership, in favour of the epilepsy community in all 47 ILAE-Europe countries.

I kindly ask for your votes and seek your support to continue being a member of ILAE-Europe Executive Board for the 2021 to 2025 term.

With very best wishes,

Silvio Basic'