

**Zagreb, June 10<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**Maša Malenica Election statement**

**Dear Friends and Colleagues,**

**Dear Members of the ILAE Europe Executive Board,**

**Dear Members of the ILAE Europe Chapters,**

It is a great honor and privilege to be nominated for the ILAE Europe Committee for the 2025–2029 term. With this nomination comes a profound sense of responsibility—one that I am both prepared and enthusiastic to embrace.

Throughout my life and professional career, I have witnessed profound changes across Europe, shaping my belief in unity, collaboration, and the pursuit of shared goals. These experiences have inspired me to contribute actively to the European epilepsy community and have motivated me to offer my efforts, energy, and perspective to the ILAE Europe Committee.

If elected my main priorities would include:

1. Knowledge generation, particularly in the field of rare and complex epilepsies
2. Harmonization of epilepsy care and service standards across European countries
3. Advocacy for improved health policies and the reduction of treatment gaps
4. Support for young professionals through education and sustainable mentorship

As a long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the European Reference Network for rare and complex epilepsies (ERN EpiCARE), I currently lead the Working Group on Education and Training, as well as a Special Interest Group on the transition from pediatric to adult care—both of which serve all countries in the European region. Through the establishment of the **Mentor & Mentee program** within ERN EpiCARE, my goal has been to create meaningful opportunities for young colleagues to grow, learn, and build networks across Europe. I also contribute to the Working Group on Knowledge Generation and Capacity across all ERNs, supporting initiatives such as the ERN Academy to promote evidence-based, patient-centered epilepsy care.

Within the **ILAE Education Council**, I have had the privilege of promoting international collaboration and helping to shape educational programs that cross borders and disciplines. I also serve as faculty member and co-director of several international educational initiatives, including the **EPIPED course**, which focuses on treatment strategies in pediatric epilepsies.

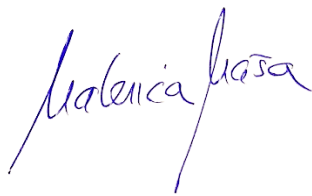
Beyond academic and institutional contributions, I have always been committed to engaging with the broader community and leading by example. Since 2010, I have organized an **annual camp for children with epilepsy**, which remains one of my most meaningful and rewarding projects. I collaborate closely with **patient associations**, and for over a decade, I have worked to reduce stigma and raise awareness by providing epilepsy education to teachers and caregivers in day-care and school settings.

ILAE Europe encompasses a remarkable diversity of cultures, systems, and communities—each facing unique challenges in epilepsy care. Having grown up in a region marked by both conflict and recovery, I have developed a deep appreciation for resilience, empathy, and dialogue. My goal is to bring these values to the work of the Committee, helping to foster inclusion, mutual understanding, and progress for all people with epilepsy across Europe.

Thank you very much for considering my candidacy. I fully support the mission of ILAE Europe and would be truly honored to contribute further to its important work.

I would be deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring my experience and passion to the ILAE Europe Committee.

**With warm regards,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Malenica Maša". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Professor Maša Malenica, MD, PhD**  
University Hospital Centre Sestre milosrdnice, ERN EpiCARE  
Zagreb, Croatia