



**VISION**

**2023-  
2028**





# INTRODUCTION

Following the 10th anniversary of the European Association of Societies of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (EASAPS)'s foundation, in Bucharest in 2017 the Board of Directors formulated the EASAPS vision for the next coming years. This document "Vision 2017 – 2025" described short- and long-term goals and served as a guide for the day-to-day work of EASAPS committees and the Board. Since the meeting in Bucharest, Dr. Ivar van Heijningen and Dr. Carlos Parreira contributed substantially during their terms, serving EASAPS defined goals and elevating the society to the next level into becoming an internationally renowned European society.

In line with rapidly and continuously changing requirements for individual plastic surgeons and professional societies, it became clear that a critical review of the vision 2017 - 2025 was necessary. Thus, the board agreed that a second strategic vision paper should be formulated after receiving all opinions on the matter in a democratic manner.

The aim of this paper is to update the EASAPS and ESAPS short- and long-term visions on behalf of the Board of Directors. It should be interpreted as a logical extension of earlier formulated content but not as a replacement of EASAPS and ESAPS common ethical principles.

I strongly believe in the future of the European network of individual aesthetic plastic surgeons and their national societies and proudly present this updated version.

*Birgit Stark*  
*Stockholm August 2023*  
*President 2022 - 2024*

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

EASAPS was founded in 2007 by Yann Levet, Guler Gursu and Ulrich Hinderer along with the following societies: France (SOFCEP), Germany (DGÄPC & VDÄPC), Italy (SICPRE), Spain (AECEP), Switzerland (SGPRAC) and the United Kingdom (BAAPS).

*The overall goal was:*

*“ to organise, promulgate and disseminate an interchange of knowledge and ideas for the benefit of European plastic surgeons”*

For many years, it has proven difficult to convey scientific and administrative information from EASAPS to individual European plastic surgeons with specific interest in aesthetic plastic surgery. At the time of writing the “Vision 2017 – 2025”, EASAPS visibility and awareness was low in Europe, partly due to insufficiently formulated content and future goals. Not all national presidents transmitted EASAPS information and communications to their members on a regular basis. Moreover, to hold an up-to-date register on all national presidents changing every year or second year represented an additional challenge.

Thus, the Board of EASAPS presented a new concept of ESAPS, the European society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons during the General Assembly held during the ISAPS meeting in Miami in 2018. A society of individual members could facilitate and improve direct communications and better serve our profession.

The proposal was accepted and passed by a democratic vote and EASAPS and the new ESAPS became co-existing societies with same administration, goals, and resources. In addition, the Board of Directors established a comprehensive administrative structure for the non-profit organisations, EASAPS and ESAPS (collectively known as E(A)SAPS). Bylaws were adjusted to meet the legal requirements of Belgian law as both EASAPS and ESAPS are registered in Belgium. The prerequisites for a transparent governance on how to drive E(A)SAPS were formulated in several policies and a common code of ethics for national and individual members was established. On May 23, 2019, ESAPS was founded and EASAPS was officially re-launched with the status of “International Non-Profit Organisation”, registered in Belgium and VAT registered.

As all societies should adapt to modern evolutions, the Board and Executive Committee constantly review E(A)SAPS strategy and long-term goals. At these occasions it has been decided by vote at the Board Retreat meetings in Milan, November 2021, and in Cervinia, March 2023 to increase ESAPS visibility and to bring this society into more focus. How this transition from EASAPS to ESAPS will proceed is described in more detail in the following section.

# CONTENTS OF EASAPS/ESAPS RPS/PSP

EASAPS and ESAPS remain co-societies under the same administrative Board and share common ethical and educative values but concentrate their work in different areas as they aim to serve different focus groups. The following represents our actual vision at the time of writing of the current draft version and aims to continue the EASAPS vision 2017 – 2025:



## EASAPS: Focus on national societies surgeons

Exchange of information to and between European National societies

Connect, foster and integrate European National Societies

Align, communicate, and promote interests of the European National Societies

Respond to Media Enquiries and governmental enquiries regarding transnational matters

Defend and communicate the interests of the European National Societies towards the European Authorities and Governing bodies

Foster the European spirit and Cultural Diversity

Serve as Source of non-biased Information to plastic surgeons

Promote the visibility of European National Societies

Promote Patient safety through regular education of patients and surgeons

Outline and promote the importance of Ethical behavior regarding publicity, social media and interaction with peers

Develop, promote and deliver educational tools and content to members, with a special focus on the education and training of residents

Create transnational awareness of a European Community of Plastic Aesthetic Surgeons

## ESAPS: Focus on individual aesthetic plastic

The Plastic Surgery Platform (PSP) is a free accessible database for all board-certified (fully credentialed) European plastic surgeons, especially those with a specific interest in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. Verified “real” plastic surgeons are profiled on the Realplasticsurgeon.eu website and can join ESAPS as a member should they so wish.

Real Plastic Surgeon (RPS), the online European register of “real plastic surgeons” was created and launched during the term of Dr. van Heijningen. It is primarily a patient safety and information platform (realplasticsurgon.eu) listing board certified (or equivalent fully credentialed)

European plastic surgeons in Europe. RPS is linked to ESAPS and EASAPS and is a tool for patients when searching for a well-educated and fully credentialed plastic surgeon in Europe. In addition, individual E(A)SAPS members are invited to publish relevant patient information on specific topics for promoting patient safety.



Real Plastic Surgeon.eu register about

 REAL PLASTIC SURGEON

### Looking for a real plastic surgeon in Europe?

Find out if your doctor is a registered plastic surgeon with correct training.

Name of your doctor:

Find a registered plastic surgeon in your country:

Country:

 ESAPS  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY

 EURAPS

# EASAPS CONTENT 2023 - 2028

EASAPS remains the Voice of Europe in matters of professional and political issues concerning training, education, interaction with media and regulatory/notifying bodies in Europe. Collaboration with EURAPS, ESPRAS, ISAPS, IMCAS and ICOPLAST/ICOBRA will be prioritised and supported. Fiscal and national legal matters will be discussed in the Alliance of National Plastic Surgery Societies that EASAPS will become. EASAPS will become an Alliance/Committee under the umbrella of ESAPS. Consequently, EASAPS main interest and focus will evolve to be of a more political character, related to specific national and governmentally imposed work conditions, standards and regulations. Additionally, EASAPS will support national societies in nominating Centers of Training in accordance with EASAPS policy and oversee the quality of education. In line with previous investigations, EASAPS will hold and provide European statistics on adverse secondary effects of medical devices or other adverse effects related to aesthetic plastic surgery.

The EASAPS Alliance of National Plastic Surgery Societies has and will continue to have a representative in the Board of Directors. This representative is voted for by the presidents of national plastic surgery societies. His/her principal role is bringing important national matters for discussion to the Board of EASAPS as well as conveying information back to national presidents from EASAPS. This important link between national presidents and the board underlines and refers to initial core values of the founders. A smooth transition from EASAPS as society to an Alliance/ Committee with chair function is scheduled during the term 2026 – 2028. At this stage EASAPS as a separate legal entity can end, saving the organisation a significant amount of accounting and yearly registration costs.

# ESAPS CONTENT 2023 - 2028

ESAPS's foundation stone is always patient safety. With this in mind, ESAPS will take over all functions in the scientific field relevant for aesthetic plastic surgeons including workshops, webinars, the biennial congress, interaction with industry partners, information and promulgation on acute issues. ESAPS will oversee content and follow-up of industry sponsored training in accredited centers by EASAPS. Young plastic surgeons and residents are the future of plastic surgery and at the centre of ESAPS's working activities. ESAPS works for patient safety in the field of body contouring and houses the newly created European task force under the lead of Dr. Mendanha. New taskforces on Face and Breast will be created. The Breast Taskforce will cover all breast implanted related issues and breast implant registries. Business-oriented sessions with modern knowledge and in line with high ethical and professional behavior will continue as part of ESAPS's standing meeting content.

Individual membership for plastic surgeons is possible since 2022. Requirements for membership in ESAPS are defined in the "Code of Ethics" to be signed by each member on admission. In line with ESAPS's new field of activities, we propose an array of benefits for new members as well as fee-reduced meeting attendances.

As an ESAPS member, aesthetic plastic surgeons showcase to patients and the public their commitment to patient safety and ethical behavior. ESAPS's European network allows exchange of information or discussion of difficult cases with experts in the field. Young colleagues can find a mentor and business advice can help to avoid shortcomings in daily practice.

# ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The overall mission of the Board of Directors is to lead ESAPS to the expected central European position in matters of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery according to the Board decision taken at the Milan Retreat meeting in 2021. The term 2022-2024 will focus on a smooth and wise transition from EASAPS to ESAPS with diligent and respectful coexistence.

Concerning the content of EASAPS - representing the voice of European national plastic surgery societies – a key platform for discussions has been provided in regular zoom meetings under the lead of the new representative of national presidents. This new board position was added in 2022. The summaries of presidential zoom meetings are then forwarded by the representative of national presidents to the Board of Directors.

Issues of national Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Societies will therefore remain in focus under the direction and supervision of this newly created board position.

**In summary, the transition from EASAPS to ESAPS has been planned as follows.**

| 2022 - 2024 | 2024 - 2026 | 2026 - 2028   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| EASAPS 50%  | EASAPS 25%  | ESAPS main society  |
| ESAPS 50%   | ESAPS 75%   | EASAPS Alliance/Committee of ESAPS with an ESAPS board position for the chair |

Let us keep in mind that together we are stronger but also specify responsibilities and duties in an ever more complex world of aesthetic plastic surgery by defining EASAPS and ESAPS for the future.

# FINANCIAL CHANGES

EASAPS member societies pay a membership fee and continue to do so under the umbrella of ESAPS. We propose to waive this fee when at least 5 members of a small society or 10 of a big society (>100 members) join ESAPS. \*Most likely this will result in free membership for all National Plastic Surgery Societies in the future.

*\*For countries with two or more National Plastic Surgery Societies, an ESAPS member can only be counted for one Society and the Aesthetic Society will take priority.*

Agreements and contracts with future sponsors and industry partners will be agreed and signed with ESAPS only to avoid conflicting financial accounting.



# TEAM



**Birgit Stark, President 2022-2024**



**Michel Rouif, President Elect 2024-2026**



**Nora Nugent, Secretary 2022-2024**



**Ivar van Heijningen, Treasurer 2022-2024  
Past President 2018-2020**



**Carlos Parreira, Past President 2020-2022**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 - 2024

President:  
President Elect:  
Past President:  
Treasurer:  
Secretary:  
Chair Scientific Committee:  
Chair Membership Committee:  
Chair Marketing Committee:  
Chair Communication Committee:  
Chair Patient Safety Committee:  
Trustee:  
Parliamentarian:  
Chair Governance Committee:  
Representative of national societies:  
Chair Residents Committee /non-voting:

Birgit Stark  
Michel Rouif  
Carlos Parreira  
Ivar van Heijningen  
Nora Nugent  
Mario Mendanha  
Katarina Andjelkov  
Steffen Handstein  
Kai Kaye  
Jesús Benito Ruiz  
Pierfrancesco Cirillo  
Timo Pakkanen  
Carlos Parreira  
Carlo Magliocca  
Iris Brito



**EASAPS**  
**ESAPS**

EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
OF AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY