



VISION 2017 - 2025

2017 - 2019

Introduction

After the 10th anniversary meeting of EASAPS in Bucharest, the new Board started to formulate a plan for the future of the Association.

Holding to the founding principles introduced by Hinderer, "To organise, promulgate and disseminate an interchange of knowledge and ideas for the benefit of plastic surgeons", we set out to prepare EASAPS for the next 10 years.

As an organization, we were at a crossroads. It has proven difficult to reach all the European Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Societies and to get them involved, let alone to engage with individual plastic surgeons with an interest in aesthetic procedures. Consequently, EASAPS, as an organization, lacked visibility.

The new Board decided they would create a clear vision for EASAPS. We needed to clarify our purpose and our long-term goals. We were convinced that, once we proved our value to the Societies, we could play the role that EASAPS was founded to fulfil.

We believe plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery is one unified specialty. In Europe, we intend to work closely with other European Societies, such as EURAPS and ESPRAS, with our focus being to represent Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons

This document describes how we plan to achieve our aims.

We believe in the role of education in protecting our patients, to promote ethics, and to help young colleagues learn aesthetic procedures in a structured way, based on proven scientific principles. Friendship and respect for European cultural diversities (the European spirit of diversity) are the foundation of EASAPS' work to serve European plastic surgeons and to promote all our member National Societies.

It is with great pleasure that I present this to you, on behalf of the EASAPS team.

Ivar van Heijningen,

EASAPS president 2017-2019
ESAPS president 2019

General Vision

The founders of EASAPS Yann Levet, Guler Gursu and Ulrich Hinderer, together with the founding societies of France (SOFCEP), Spain (AECEP), the United Kingdom (BAAPS), Germany (DGÄPC_VDÄPC), Switzerland (SGPRAC) and Italy (SICPRE) believed that it was necessary to have an Association,

“To organise, promulgate and disseminate an interchange of knowledge and ideas for the benefit of plastic surgeons.”

10 years later, times have changed. We have the Internet and the way information is shared has changed beyond all imagination and we needed to look to the future and prepare our organization for it. One of the key issues is to communicate effectively with the National Societies and fulfil their expectations of us.

We made a list of expectations through a survey in 2017, followed by a strategic planning meeting in 2018 and set out to modernise the Association.

Short Term Vision EASAPS 2017 - 2019

This presidential term, 2017 – 2019, is focused on the re-orientation of EASAPS with the following goals:

- Defining a clear long-term vision (see below)
- Showing our commitment by our actions
- Creating the required organisational structure, including the
 - o establishment of a new Aesthetic Plastic Surgery society, based on individual membership, to work alongside the original ethos of EASAPS.
- Establish and maintain contact with all relevant organisations and with individual Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons
- Creating a patient safety platform (realplasticsurgeon.eu)
- Organising a stand alone EASAPS/ESAPS congress.

The presidential report gives more detail about the accomplishments of 2017 – 2019 under the leadership of President, Ivar van Heijningen, President Elect, Carlos Parreira, and Scientific Chair, Birgit Stark.

Legal status

A very important step toward professionalisation of the Association was to obtain formal, legal status. On May 23 2019, EASAPS was officially re-launched with the status of an International Non-Profit Organisation, based in Belgium, as confirmed by Royal decree on

The Association is VAT registered and has a new bank account. The Association official address is now:

EASAPS
 Groot Bijgaarden straat 14,
 1082 Brussels
 Belgium.

Long Term Vision EASAPS

A position paper setting out the long-term vision of EASAPS has been developed to clarify our values for our members, the National Societies,

The essential elements are;

Our purpose is to serve European Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons and their National Societies, by the dissemination of information and education in Europe.

Our Core Values are:

1. Serve our member Societies and European plastic surgeons.
2. Collect and distribute information relevant to Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.
3. Promote Patient Safety.
4. Promote excellence in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery training.
5. Promote the highest ethical standards

It is our 10-year goal:

To become the representative European Aesthetic Plastic Surgery organisation.

This will be achieved by working with National Societies, Other European Societies (ESPRAS AND EURAPS) as well as the European, ISAPS National Secretaries, focussing on the field of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. The European spirit of friendship and respect for diversity guides us.

Working towards long term goals will help us to be consistent in our approach and it is now clear what National Societies can expect from EASAPS.

Core values

1) Serving All National Societies and European plastic surgeons

EASAPS will focus on creating value for all European plastic surgery societies, both aesthetic Plastic Surgical Societies and Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Societies. EASAPS was initiated as a federation of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery societies and focused on National Societies with an Aesthetic focus. However, two of the founding Societies were general Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Societies and some countries do not have a National Society dedicated exclusively to Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

In order to serve ALL European Societies, our database has been updated and this will be a continuous process. We have identified 52 European Countries. 43 have at least one Society

of Plastic Surgery. 19 have dedicated Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Societies and 44 have Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Societies, totalling 63 National Societies. Their details are listed on our website. If the details change, please ensure our secretariat is updated with the new details.

One unified specialty

It is our firm believe that plastic surgery is one, unified specialty encompassing reconstructive and aesthetic aspects united by a unique philosophy about how patients should be cared for. Plastic surgery has been confronted with many challenges from other specialties in both reconstructive and aesthetic arenas since its inception in 1916. Aesthetic doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, beauticians and others are performing aesthetic procedures and Plastic Surgeons must stand shoulder to shoulder to protect patients from unscrupulous untrained practitioners. In doing so, we will protect our Specialty.

European Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ESAPS)

The inability for EASAPS to reach individual European Plastic Surgeons through their National Societies led to us concluding that an individual member society was needed in Europe because;

1. 9 European countries do not have a plastic surgery society.
2. EASAPS is an Association of Societies, not of individuals. The bylaws prevent individuals becoming members of EASAPS.
3. Young Plastic Surgeons are less inclined to join their National Society.
4. It was felt that, for our messages to be delivered consistently, a direct link with individuals was necessary.

What are the benefits for National Societies?

ESAPS will promote National Society membership by giving discounts and offering other benefits to individual members, who are also a member of their National Society. The Membership committee will be continuing to work on more benefits to support the National Societies.

It was agreed at the EASAPS General Assembly, held in Miami during ISAPS 2018, that the European Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ESAPS) should be established. On May 23rd 2019, ESAPS was duly founded as a co-society of EASAPS with the same board, the same European spirit, the same vision, the same focus and the same values as EASAPS.

2) Collection and distribution of information relevant to Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons

In the last two years, we have been confronted with major challenges, such as “the implant files”, the ALCL issue and the ban of textured implants in France, the removal of Allergan, Siltex breast implants from the international market, buttock fat grafting deaths and also VAT on aesthetic procedures. In addition, both doctors and non-doctors have been expanding their work in aesthetics. These challenges are effecting all European countries and sharing information helps us respond in a coherent and consistent manner. European Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons speaking with one voice has a bigger impact than any single National Society or individual surgeon.

The Board of Advisors WhatsApp group has proven highly effective in rapidly exchanging and disseminating information.

3) Promoting Patient Safety

As a specialty focusing on aesthetic procedures, it is our primary goal to safely improve the quality of life of our patients. The use of accreditation guidelines for facilities and the published European standards as the minimal code of good practice are encouraged.

The scientific and patient safety committees have published checklists and specific documents for patient information and informed consent with regard to breast surgery. This is an ongoing process and will be expanded to include other procedures in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. Controversies over the long-term outcomes of implant-based breast surgery initiated our promotion of a European Breast Implant Registry.

4) Promotion of excellence in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery training

Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery is the only recognised specialty in most countries to include “aesthetic” in its title and the only way to stand out as a specialty has always required us being seen to be doing our job better than anyone else. To that end, training in aesthetic procedures should be the best possible to allow us to keep our advantage. EASAPS is developing initiatives, such as aesthetic fellowships and a congress to support the training of our residents and young colleagues as well as providing Continuing Professional Development for established surgeons. Life Long Learning is essential in aesthetic surgery. The Residents and Fellows Committee will improve the future of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

5) Promotion of the highest ethical standards

The highest ethical standards are crucial to safety in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, especially the dictum to ‘first do no harm’. It is essential that Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons “stand out” as the safest providers of aesthetic services. Initiatives to help our members are being developed such as the realplasticsurgeon.eu website and revision of the ethical code.

European Spirit

The European spirit of diversity and friendship is an integral part of our Societies’ vision. The ability for Europeans to reach consensus is a very strong tool for maintaining democracy. Many new developments in plastic surgery have come about through cross-fertilisation of ideas. Friendship is a bond that helps us advance, especially in a complex organisation. EASAPS welcomes all national Societies who are interested in developing this European spirit by applying to join the EASAPS board, committees or the board of advisors. Such cooperation is essential where we need to represent European Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in situations such as the ANSM hearing in Paris, the discussions on the Beautician Standard, developing communication strategies with the EU public and how European Aesthetic Surgical interests can be shared with other organisations such as EURAPS, ESPRAS and ISAPS. The Voice of Europe session in our congress serves to emphasise the strength in our diversity and to share the best of Aesthetic Surgery from our member countries.

Short Term Vision EASAPS of the 2019 – 2021 team

Now that the long term vision for our organisation is clear, the next presidency (2019-202) under the leadership of Carlos Parreira will share the same focus, goals and core values and Birgit Stark, our president-elect will build on those foundations during her Presidential term (2021-2023). Beyond that we will be looking for a succession that will maintain the same focus.

Whilst much has been accomplished, the following issues still need to be addressed:

1. Our financial situation needs to be stabilised in order to meet our running costs, especially for those of our executive business director, Karen Rogerson. Karen has worked tirelessly and for very little return because she believes in the aims and goals of the Society. This situation is not sustainable. Membership databases, websites, newsletters, social media and the congress calendar all have a cost to maintain.
2. Contacts with the National Societies need to be further strengthened
 We need EASAPS delegates from every European National Society so that we have a point of contact, in order that we can stay updated about the problems they are encountering and to see how we can help them. In turn, we need them to tell us who are the board-certified plastic surgeons in their respective countries, when their congresses are and when board changes occur.
3. RPS (Realplasticsurgeon.eu) register needs to be implemented.
 RPS will be the reference, web-based resource for the public wishing to find well trained, officially registered Plastic Surgeons In Europe.
4. Promote education.
 Education is the core of excellence and we are creating Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Training Guidelines, establishing a register of units in Europe providing excellence in Aesthetic Training and aiming for global accreditation of training in this field.
5. The functionality of EASAPS and ESAPS will be improved. Both Societies will run seamlessly under the same umbrella.
6. Collaboration with EURAPS and ESPRAS. Under the European spirit of cooperation, we wish to develop better collaboration with our reconstructive colleagues in EURAPS and ESPRAS and, to that end, joint sessions are planned at each other's congresses. These initiatives will serve to increase our visibility in the scientific community.
7. Continued work with "European Breast Implant Initiative".
 We will continue to work with all the countries in Europe to create the European Breast Register, either centrally or through the interlinking of National Breast Registers in close collaboration with ICOBRA. The registration of every implant through the European Breast Registry initiative must be supported to maximize patient safety and should be expanded to cover all implants inserted for aesthetic reasons. A clear, easy process for surgeons to follow, in line with the requirements of national regulatory bodies and supporting scientific principles of research is required.
8. Database for relevant scientific publications.
 The scientific committee will develop an archive of information on important topics, communications from regulators, industry and scientific publications. It will have a public facing area and another for member access only.

9. Relevant information on fiscal and regulatory matters.

An information resource will be developed for our members to access concerning fiscal and regulatory issues in Europe (e.g. VAT).

10. EASAPS/ESAPS interaction with media.

EASAPS/ESAPS will provide a point of European reference for the media, regulatory bodies and the general public, representing the views of all national plastic surgery societies.

11. Biennial congress.

A biennial congress will be held that will stand out as a European beacon for the profession. A meeting that is held in the same city with easy travel from across Europe is favored because it will ease organisation and therefore costs. It will mean that industry will be able to budget for it on an ongoing basis and it will establish the date and place amongst all other competing meetings.

Together we are stronger, and we want you to keep working with us.