



**73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe  
WHO European framework for action on the health and care workforce 2023–2028**

**Joint statement: World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and IAHPC (International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care)**

We, the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC), appreciate the opportunity to address the Regional Meeting of the World Health Organization, European Region. Our joint statement underscores the importance of palliative care, its integration with neurology, and the effective implementation of the WHO European Framework for Action on the Health and Care Workforce.

The burden of neurological disorder is high and increasing globally. Palliative care is a fundamental component of comprehensive healthcare, offering relief and support to individuals facing serious, life-threatening illnesses, including neurological conditions. Palliative care and neurology share a crucial and interconnected role in improving the quality of life for individuals living with severe and progressive neurological conditions, such as motor neuron diseases, advanced neurodegenerative disorders and some others. These individuals often experience complex symptom profiles, including pain, cognitive decline, and emotional distress. As COVID-19 pandemic showed, palliative care is necessary in case of emergency, catastrophe and for any age, everywhere and for any diseases, vulnerable people across all ages are those who are suffering more. Palliative care specialists play a vital role in addressing these symptoms and providing emotional and psychological support, ensuring a holistic approach to patient care. Neurologists have a central role in the palliative care journey of individuals with neurological conditions. They offer insights into disease progression, symptom management, and advanced care planning, all of which are essential components of palliative care for these patients.

The WHO European Framework for Action on the Health and Care Workforce is a significant initiative aimed at ensuring that healthcare systems have a skilled and motivated workforce to deliver quality care. To fulfill the goals of the framework, we highlight the need of improving access to comprehensive care for individuals with neurological conditions, of the integration of specialized training in palliative care, including communication skills, symptom management, and advanced care planning, into the education and continuing professional development of healthcare workers.

We advocate for the strengthening of the interdisciplinary and multiprofessional approach to ensure that individuals living with acute and progressive neurological conditions receive comprehensive care that addresses both their neurological needs and their palliative care requirements. We encourage Member states to promote and support this collaboration in the care of patients facing complex health challenges.