

European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy



ESGE

**STRATEGIC PLAN
& STRUCTURE
2021 - 2024**

esge.com



1	PREAMBLE	5
2	ESGE VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES - OUR PROMISE TO OUR COMMUNITY	6
	STRATEGIC AIMS	7
3	HISTORY	8
4	LEGAL STRUCTURE	8
5	ESGE STRUCTURE	9
	Overall society structure and governance	9
	ESGE Committee structure	10
	Membership structure	11
6	OPERATIONAL / ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT	12
	ESGE Secretariat	12
	Financial management	12
7	PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	15



1

PREAMBLE

The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) has undergone rapid growth during the last several years and as such, its structure and activities are continuously developing to adapt to the demands of our field and our community.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy has paramount societal importance in the screening, diagnosis, and management of digestive diseases. Throughout its 60-year existence ESGE has been dedicated to advancing the quality of care, by providing face-to-face and online educational programs and activities for our community, awarding research and fellowship training grants, and helping to drive research and technological innovation in the field of gastrointestinal endoscopy. In large part this is based upon the volunteer activities of hundreds of endoscopists throughout Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East. As part of our mission to provide guidance in the daily practice of gastrointestinal endoscopy, ESGE continuously provides evidence-based resources including clinical guidelines, quality of care criteria, endoscopy training curricula, position statements, and technology reviews.

In the summer of 2019, the ESGE Governing Board convened a two-day strategic planning retreat to appraise the present status of the Society and to consider its future course. Its outcomes are presented in Part 2 of this document:

- An explicit summary of our strategic plan for our stakeholders and our community
- Definition of ESGE's vision, mission, and core values
- Definition of clear pillars of action for ESGE during the next three years.

Parts 3 – 6 of the document outline ESGE's history, its governance and operational structures (page 8 – 15).

2

ESGE VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES OUR PROMISE TO OUR COMMUNITY

ESGE’s mission is to support the practice of gastrointestinal endoscopy by education, innovation, and the dissemination of information, and to continually promote and advance quality practice. Our committees and working groups will be the drivers of this activity.

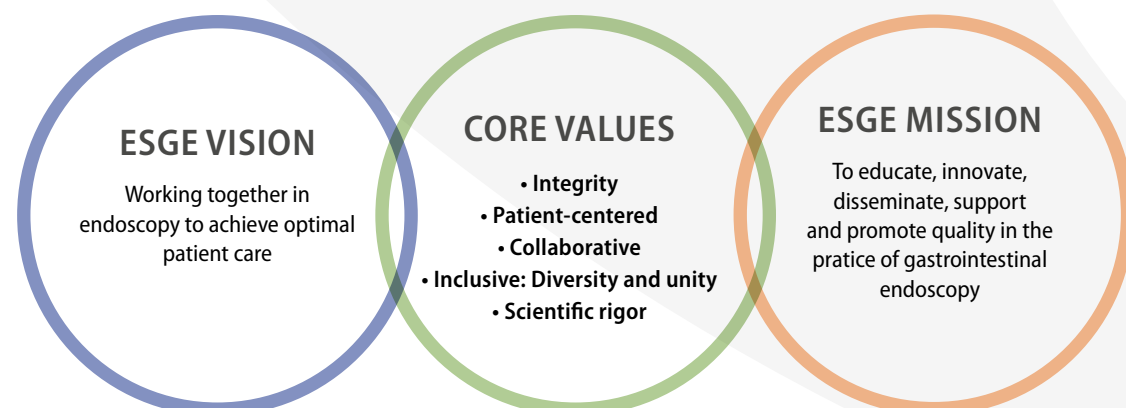
The two-day retreat held in the summer of 2019, provided **ESGE** with the framework of a strategic plan that considered our members, patients, corporate partners, and other stakeholders. This strategic plan is built upon the foundation of our Society’s core values: patient-centeredness, collaboration, diversity and unity, scientific rigor, and integrity.

With scientific rigor, we will accomplish our mission by providing **evidence-based guidance** through the production of publications, including clinical guidelines, quality improvement criteria, endoscopy training curricula, position statements, and technical/technology innovation reviews.

This information will be disseminated through **face-to-face and online learning programmes**. Communication channels include but will not be limited to ESGE Days, our Travelling Endoscopy Program (TEP and e-TEP), ESGE “Webinars,” myESGEtutor, our scientific journal Endoscopy, and social media.

Importantly, ESGE is fully committed to support our member societies, individual members, and sister societies. We will continue to involve them, **supporting and interacting** with our entire community through face-to-face and online meetings, as well as by research and fellowship training grants.

To realize our vision of optimal patient care, we will work with our gastrointestinal endoscopy community in an open, collaborative, and inclusive way.



STRATEGIC AIMS

PROMOTE QUALITY AND GIVE GUIDANCE

SUPPORT

Research Grants
Committees and Working Groups
Travelling Endoscopy Programme

Learning Area

Fellowship Grants

Guidelines
Curricula
Quality and standards

Patient Videos

myESGEtutor

Newsletters
ESGE Recordings
Social Media
Quality App

eLearning Platform

Travelling Endoscopy Programme
Webinars
ESGE Days

MEET, INTERACT AND TEACH

COMMUNICATE AND DISSEMINATE

3

HISTORY

By the early 1960s GI endoscopy was playing an increasingly important role that was reflected at gastroenterology congresses. Thus, in 1960 at the 7th Association des Sociétés Nationales Européennes et Méditerranéennes de Gastroentérologie (ASNEMGE) Congress, in Leiden, the Netherlands, there was a symposium on a variety of endoscopy topics. At this gathering, a group of endoscopists decided to establish a club that would concentrate on promoting GI endoscopy, the “European Endoscopic Club.” Four years later, at the 1964 ASNEMGE Congress in Brussels, Belgium, the members of the club convened with other interested endoscopists and agreed to form the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE).

ESGE was founded as an umbrella association and today represents national medical societies of gastroenterology/ gastrointestinal endoscopy throughout Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, and the Middle East. In 2007, ESGE also opened its doors to individual members (physicians) worldwide.

In April 2018, ESGE established its first standalone congress, ESGE Days, holding its first meeting in Budapest, Hungary. ESGE Days aims to be the primary scientific forum for GI endoscopists in Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, and the Middle East and occurs on an annual basis.

4

LEGAL STRUCTURE

ESGE is a non-profit scientific association, registered in Lyon, France and governed by the law of July 1, 1901 and the French decree of August 16, 1901.

The ESGE Statutes (last version as of 2015) define the Society’s structure, functions, rules and principles of ESGE membership, and the duties of its elected officials.

The ESGE By-laws are the rules for the conduct of the work of the Society, enacting the principles laid out in the ESGE Statutes.

5

ESGE STRUCTURE

Overall society structure and governance

ESGE is governed according to its statutes and by-laws as well as by a Governing Board, Executive Committee, General Assembly of its 49 Member Societies, Committees and Working Groups (Fig. 1).

ESGE Membership is open to both national societies (Member Societies) and individuals (Individual Members). Every two years, at the General Assembly, the Member Societies (one vote each) elect 5–7 councillors to the Governing Board; beforehand, the Individual Members elect 0–2 councillors via an online vote.

The Society’s Executive Committee officials are elected from within the Governing Board by its voting members.

The Governing Board includes the above elected members and co-opted non-voting members (committee and working group chairs and the journal Endoscopy’s editor-in-chief). Co-opted Governing Board members are not eligible for nomination for Executive Committee positions.

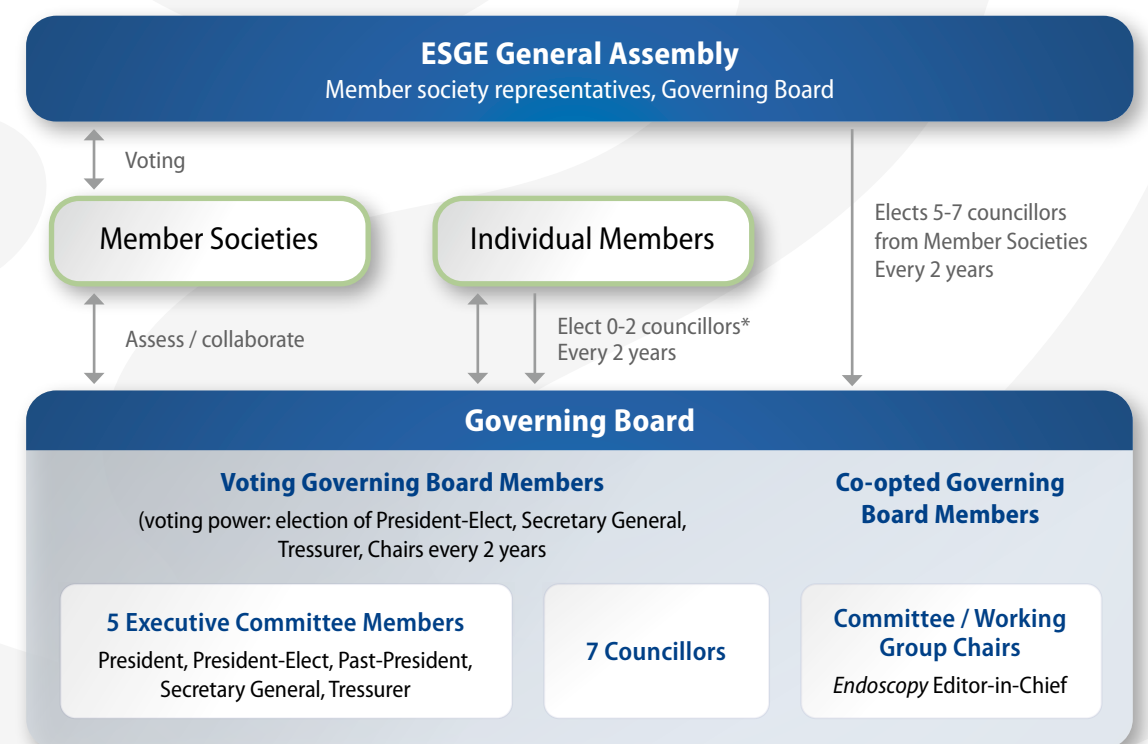


Fig. 1: ESGE structure

ESGE Committee structure

ESGE Committees and Working Groups are responsible for supporting and managing the core activities of the society, reflecting our strategic objectives. The Working Groups are a subset of the committees.

Every two years, ESGE puts out a call to its Member Societies and Individual Members to apply for open committee chair position(s). They are subsequently elected by the Governing Board.

The Working Group chairs are nominated and appointed by the Executive Committee together with the committee chairs. Further information may be found in the ESGE By-laws.

Figure 2 below provides an overview of the **ESGE committees** and working groups supporting our strategic objectives.



Fig. 2: ESGE committee structure

The aims of the abovementioned committees are detailed in the ESGE By-laws.

Membership structure

1. Member Societies

ESGE currently has 49 Member Societies, from Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

National societies of gastroenterology/gastrointestinal endoscopy or organized groups of gastrointestinal endoscopists that may be part of or independent from a national gastroenterological society are eligible for membership and recognition as a Member Society of ESGE. Society membership is not limited to one group per country. Regional societies wishing to join ESGE are entitled to apply for ESGE membership. Election into ESGE as a Member Society is voted on at the annual General Assembly.

Detailed rules and instructions on how to apply to become a Member Society are documented in the ESGE By-laws and on our website.

22 Dual Member Societies
27 Member Societies
49 Total Member Societies

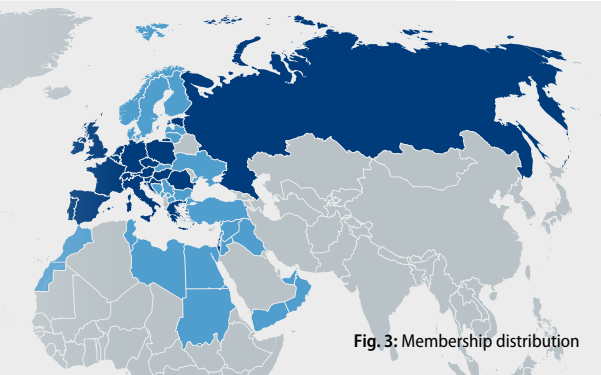


Fig. 3: Membership distribution

To promote cooperation and collaboration, ESGE offers a Dual Membership Program to ESGE Member Societies. This program enables persons in our Member Societies to become Individual Members at a reduced annual rate. Currently, ESGE has 23 dual membership agreements in place (see www.esge.com/membership).

2. Individual Membership

ESGE individual membership is open to physicians with formal training in gastrointestinal endoscopy and to trainees in endoscopy.

ESGE Trainee Membership is available for up to 2 years for full time postgraduate trainees in gastroenterology and/or surgery, internal medicine who are employed in a clinical unit with formal activity in gastrointestinal endoscopy. Exceptions are possible for Member Societies participating in the Dual Membership Program that have stringent rules for trainees.

6

OPERATIONAL / ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

ESGE Secretariat

The ESGE Secretariat manages ESGE's operational/administrative office, located in Munich, Germany and ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the Society. The Secretariat is responsible for:

- Executive Committee and Governing Board coordination
- Member Society and Individual Membership organization
- Committee and Working Group coordination
- Marketing and communication (including website and social media)
- Fundraising
- Corporate Partner coordination and organization
- ESGE Days congress management
- Financial and legal management

Financial management

In accordance with the ESGE statutes, the Treasurer is responsible for handling ESGE finances by preparing, presenting, and then once approved, executing the ESGE annual budget. The budget is presented to, discussed, and approved by the Governing Board and the General Assembly. The detailed responsibilities of the ESGE Treasurer are described in the ESGE By-laws.

1. Income

ESGE requires adequate funding to support its core activities that are carried out by the Executive Committee, Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups.

1.1 Membership fees

Individual and Society Members pay annual dues for ESGE membership. Individual Members receive a subscription to the journal Endoscopy and access to the ESGE Membership portal which includes a range of ESGE e-learning materials available exclusively to ESGE members. Individual Members receive additional benefits from their ESGE membership, including reduced registration fees for the ESGE Days congress and ESGE-endorsed events, and opportunities to apply for ESGE research and fellowship training grants.

With the dual membership program in place for Member Societies, Individual Members of these societies pay a reduced membership fee, and the Member Society fee is forgiven when a certain threshold of membership is reached (currently >20 members).

1.2 Education grants

ESGE receives unconditional education grants from some of our corporate partners. These grants are essential funding to support the core educational activities of ESGE managed by Committees and Working Groups.

1.3 Endorsed events

Member Societies hosting educational events, such as conferences or courses, can request ESGE endorsement. The ESGE Education Committee provides endorsement, subject to review of a detailed educational event endorsement application submitted by the requesting Member Society and payment of an endorsement fee. Endorsed events are advertised by ESGE on our website and in our monthly newsletters.

1.4 Commercial activities

In order to increase Society funding, ESGE has identified activities that can be sponsored by corporate partners. These activities are transparently recognized as corporate-supported activities and regulated by a MedTech (www.medtecheurope.org). The income from these activities covers the generated costs.

1.5 ESGE Days

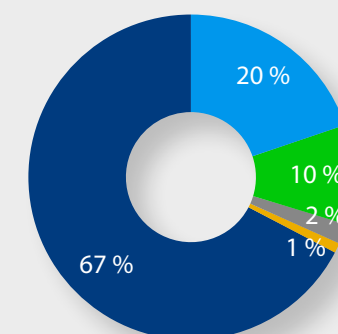
ESGE Days, still in the early phases of development, has become the most relevant activity in terms of financial impact on ESGE. For this reason, the management of the ESGE Days budget is prepared, presented, and executed separately from that of other ESGE educational activities. The two primary sources of income from ESGE Days are registration fees and support from corporate partners. ESGE Days is fully compliant with the MedTech code of conduct.

1.6 ESGE Research Endorsement

One of the main objectives of ESGE is to promote good quality research in the field of GI endoscopy. In addition to the financial research grants, ESGE offers endorsement to other research projects without ESGE funding. ESGE endorsement may enhance the chances of funding from other sources (Industry, National Grants bodies, Charities, etc.) and rapid dissemination of research ideas.

ESGE Income

- Individual and Society Membership
- Educational grants
- Endorsed events
- Commercial activities
- ESGE Days Congress



2. Expenses

ESGE allocates its entire funding to further its core educational activities in line with its strategic goals and to support the administration of the Society.

2.1 Society publications

Production of guidelines and quality support documents, and investment in technology to support the numerous educational platforms, contribute to these costs.

2.2 Support to members

- **Educational activities**
Overall, the costs of the Committees/Working Groups represent the main expenditures of ESGE. Each of these bodies has a dedicated budget to support its educational output.
- **Fellowship and research grants**
Each year, the Education and Research Committees allocate a substantial part of the Society’s budget to fellowship and research grants. The number and amount of such grants is decided by the Committee Chairs together with the ESGE Executive Committee.
- **Endoscopy journal**
Each individual ESGE member receives the journal Endoscopy (both online and hardcopy versions), purchased on their behalf by ESGE.

2.3 Administration costs

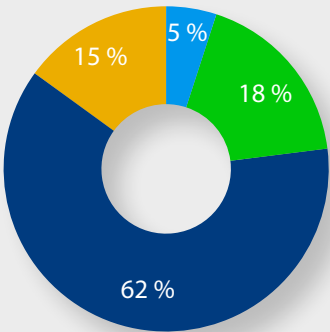
These include the costs of the ESGE Secretariat, legal advisers, travel to meetings, and accountants/tax advisors.

2.4 ESGE Days congresses

The costs of ESGE Days include the organization of the congress, the congress venue, support for the Scientific Committee that prepares the scientific program, and support for the travel and lodging costs of invited congress faculty.

ESGE Expenses

- Society publications
- Support to members
- Administration costs
- ESGE Days



3. Management of the ESGE budget and financial controls

With the support of the ESGE Secretariat, the Treasurer is responsible for monitoring and managing ESGE’s overall budget. In addition, ESGE employs the services of auditors (BDO AG) to provide additional financial controls and submission of the annual financial reports. ESGE Committee/Working Group chairs prepare an annual budget to match the goals presented and approved by the Executive Committee. Surplus income is funnelled back into the society to further educational activities for its members. Regular reports are presented to the Governing Board, and annually to the General Assembly and ESGE’s Corporate Partners.

7

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



United European Gastroenterology
ueg.eu



World Endoscopy Organization (WEO)
worldendo.org



European Society of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Nurses and Associates (ESGENA)
esgena.org



**European Society of
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy**

Contact

ESGE Secretariat
c/o Hamilton Services GmbH
Landwehr Str. 9
80336 Munich, Germany

T +49 - 89 - 907 79 36 - 0
F +49 - 89 - 907 79 36 - 20
secretariat@esge.com
www.esge.com

f @esge.endoscopy
t @ESGE_news
in european-society-of-
gastrointestinal-
endoscopy-esge