



## Fa about Epil psy

- Epilepsy is a collective term for a large group of disorders of the brain that are characterized by seizures.
- A seizure is like an internal electrical storm. It is the consequence of abnormal, excessive discharges of nerve cells.
- Seizures are symptoms of the disorder, they are not the disorder itself, yet it is the seizures and associated stigma, rather than the condition itself, which ruin the lives of people with epilepsy.
- Epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder and a global problem that recognizes no class distinction or global boundary, affecting all ages, races, social classes, and countries.
- It is estimated that 50 million people have epilepsy, six million of these live in Europe.
- Three hundred thousand (300,000) new cases are diagnosed in Europe each year.
- Forty per cent (40%) of children with epilepsy have difficulty at school; people with epilepsy in Europe experience high levels of unemployment; and people with epilepsy are exposed to stigma and prejudice.
- Based on a UK government report, it has been shown that SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) is responsible for 33,000 deaths in Europe each year, of which 40% are preventable.
- With appropriate treatment, up to 70% of people with epilepsy become seizure-free. Yet only 40% of people with epilepsy in Europe receive appropriate treatment.

## About h In rna onal Bur au or Epil psy (IBE)

**WWW.IBE-EPILEPSY.ORG**

- **IBE** is an international umbrella organisation of national lay (patient) epilepsy associations, which was founded in Rome in 1961.
- **IBE** exists to improve the social condition and quality of life of people with epilepsy and those who care for them and has a vision of the world where everywhere ignorance and fear about epilepsy are replaced by understanding and care.
- **IBE** works to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of epilepsy and to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of how best to meet the needs of people with epilepsy and those who care for them.
- **IBE** currently has a membership of 122 epilepsy associations, based in 92 countries worldwide.

## About h In rna onal Lagu Agains Epil psy (ILAE)

**WWW.ILAE-EPILEPSY.ORG**

- **ILAE** was founded in 1909 and is the world's preeminent association of Epileptologists, neurologists and other healthcare professionals working in the field of epilepsy.
- **ILAE** is working towards a world where no persons' life is limited by epilepsy.
- **ILAE's** mission is to ensure that healthcare professionals; people with epilepsy and their care givers; governments and the public, have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy.
- **ILAE**, with a membership policy of one member association (chapter) per country, has 107 chapters.

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