

On 27th May 2022 WHO committed to prioritising brain health over the next 10 years by adopting the Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031. Brain disorders, many of which are preventable and treatable, must now be a priority on the agendas of policy makers. Neurological disorders are the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of death worldwide. One in three people experience a brain disorder in their life. The IGAP has five strategic objectives with targets.

Prioritise Neurological Disorders & Strengthen Governance

01

Targets

1. A national strategy to reduce the burden of neurological disorders in 75% of countries by 2031
2. An awareness campaign to increase understanding of brain disorders and highlight issues such as prevention, discrimination and to reduce stigma in all countries by 2031

Effective, Timely & Responsive Treatment, Care & Diagnosis

02

Targets

1. Include brain disorders in a universal health care benefits package in 75% of countries by 2031
2. Provide essential medicines and basic technologies for management of brain disorders in primary care in 80% of countries by 2031

Brain Health Promotion and Brain Disorder Prevention

03

Targets

1. Intersectoral programme for brain health promotion in 80% of countries by 2031
2. Intersectoral programme for brain disorder prevention in 80% of countries by 2031

Type something

Research and Information

04

Targets

1. Collect data on a core set of indicators for brain disorders
2. Global research output to double by 2031 from levels in 2022.

Public Health Approach - Epilepsy as a Model

05

Targets

1. Increase service coverage (e.g. access to inpatient or outpatient facilities) for epilepsy by 50% in 2031 from levels in 2021.
2. Enact legislation to protect people living with epilepsy against discrimination (e.g. in the workplace) in 80% of countries by 2031.

Why is The Intersectoral Global Action Plan Important for Ireland

The Global Action Plan represents an important opportunity for Ireland to take a lead in the promotion of brain health and the prevention and treatment of brain disorders across the EU, building on the positive initiatives that have taken place in areas such as dementia, epilepsy and stroke care. Ireland has the advantage of experienced clinical leadership and a vibrant world-leading research community in the neurosciences as well as strong existing international collaborations and expertise in the area of brain health.

As the national umbrella for over thirty neurological charities, the Neurological Alliance of Ireland has a vital role to play in bringing together stakeholders from across neurological care to inform and implement Ireland's response to the Global Action Plan