

LEADING THE WAY IN KIDNEY HEALTH: INNOVATION, INCLUSION IMPACT.

ERA LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN
MAY 2025



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01 Foreword by the ERA President

Dear Members and Partners,

As President of the European Renal Association (ERA), I am honoured to present our Long-Term Strategic Plan, titled “Leading the Way in Kidney Health: Innovation, Inclusion, Impact.” This document represents our collective vision and commitment to addressing the pressing challenges in kidney health and care across Europe and beyond.

Kidney disease remains a significant global health burden, affecting millions of lives and straining healthcare systems. At ERA, we believe that through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy, we can reduce this burden and improve outcomes for patients. This strategic plan outlines our goals to advance research, raise awareness, empower the kidney care community, improve accessibility and equity, and strengthen ERA’s leadership in nephrology.

Our mission is clear: to promote kidney health for all, improve kidney care for patients, and foster a thriving kidney care community. By prioritizing research, education, and advocacy, we aim to drive meaningful change and ensure that kidney health is recognized as a global priority.

This document is not just a roadmap for ERA but a call to action for all stakeholders - healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and patients - to join us in shaping the future of kidney care. Together, we can create a Europe where kidney health is prioritized, care is accessible, and the kidney community is empowered to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to advancing kidney health.



Roser Torra
ERA President



02 About ERA

With more than 28,000 members, the ERA (European Renal Association) is one of the biggest nephrology associations worldwide and one of the most important and prestigious European medical associations.

It supports basic and clinical research in the fields of clinical nephrology, dialysis, renal transplantation and related subjects, and it is dedicated to advancing kidney health through **science, education, and networking**. Founded in 1963, ERA serves as a leading platform for scientific exchange, professional development, and advocacy in the field of nephrology across Europe and beyond.

ERA organises annual congresses and supports fellowships, and CME courses. ERA publishes two official leading nephrology journals in Europe: Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation and Clinical Kidney Journal (open access).

03 Purpose

The aim of the ERA is to **reduce the burden of kidney disease** by supporting basic and clinical research in the fields of clinical nephrology, dialysis, and renal transplantation, and to **advance kidney health across Europe and beyond**.

Through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy, ERA aims to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases while strengthening the international kidney community.

ERA is committed to improving kidney care and supporting healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers in their efforts to prevent, diagnose, and treat kidney diseases.

04 Mission



PROMOTING KIDNEY HEALTH FOR ALL

- Address the major causes of kidney disease in Europe through influencing public policy, promoting public awareness and collaborating with other societies.
- Develop a global outlook to kidney health beyond our borders that addresses major challenges such as climate change, displaced populations and pandemics.
- Facilitate equity of access to kidney health in neglected regions and populations.

IMPROVING KIDNEY CARE FOR PATIENTS

- Promote equity of access to kidney diagnosis and treatment across Europe.
- Respect and enhance patient voice and choice in all communities.
- Stimulate innovative research that protects kidney health, improves kidney care and enhances patient outcomes.

STRENGTHENING THE KIDNEY COMMUNITY

- Foster a stronger sense of identity and community among our members.
- Develop and disseminate effective educational programs to harmonize professional development and standardize good practice across Europe.
- Reimagine the role of the modern kidney specialist to inspire the next generation.
- Address the pressing issues of nephrology workforce recruitment and retention.

05 Vision & Values



VISION

A Europe where kidney health is **prioritized**, kidney care is **accessible**, the kidney **community is thriving**.

VALUES

- **Diversity** in leadership and **equality** of opportunity in all our activities.
- **Openness, respect** and **transparency** in decision-making.
- Bold **vision**, clear **communication, strategic** implementation, **global** reach.
- **Recognize** and **reward** scientific and clinical excellence.
- Attract the best of the **next generation** and prioritize their career development.

06 Organisational Vitality



1. Leadership and Governance

- **Strong, diverse, and transparent leadership** that drives strategic decision-making.
- A governance model that ensures **inclusivity** and **adaptability** to emerging challenges.
- Commitment to ethical leadership and **responsible resource management**.

2. Scientific and Clinical Excellence

- **Advancement of nephrology research** through grants, collaborations and support to external funding.
- Promotion of **innovative clinical practices** to improve kidney care.
- Strengthening the role of ERA initiatives (Journals, Congress, Registry, Meetings, Late Breaking Clinical Trials, etc.) as a **key source of scientific knowledge**.

3. Community Engagement and Growth

- Expanding membership, enhancing **member retention** and **active participation** from nephrology professionals.
- Creating **mentorship** and development programmes for young nephrologists.
- Encouraging **cross-border collaboration** and engagement with National Societies.

4. Financial and Operational Sustainability

- Diversified revenue streams to ensure **long-term financial stability**.
- Effective **cost-benefit analysis** for ERA initiatives and programmes.
- Investing in technology and **digital transformation** for operational efficiency.

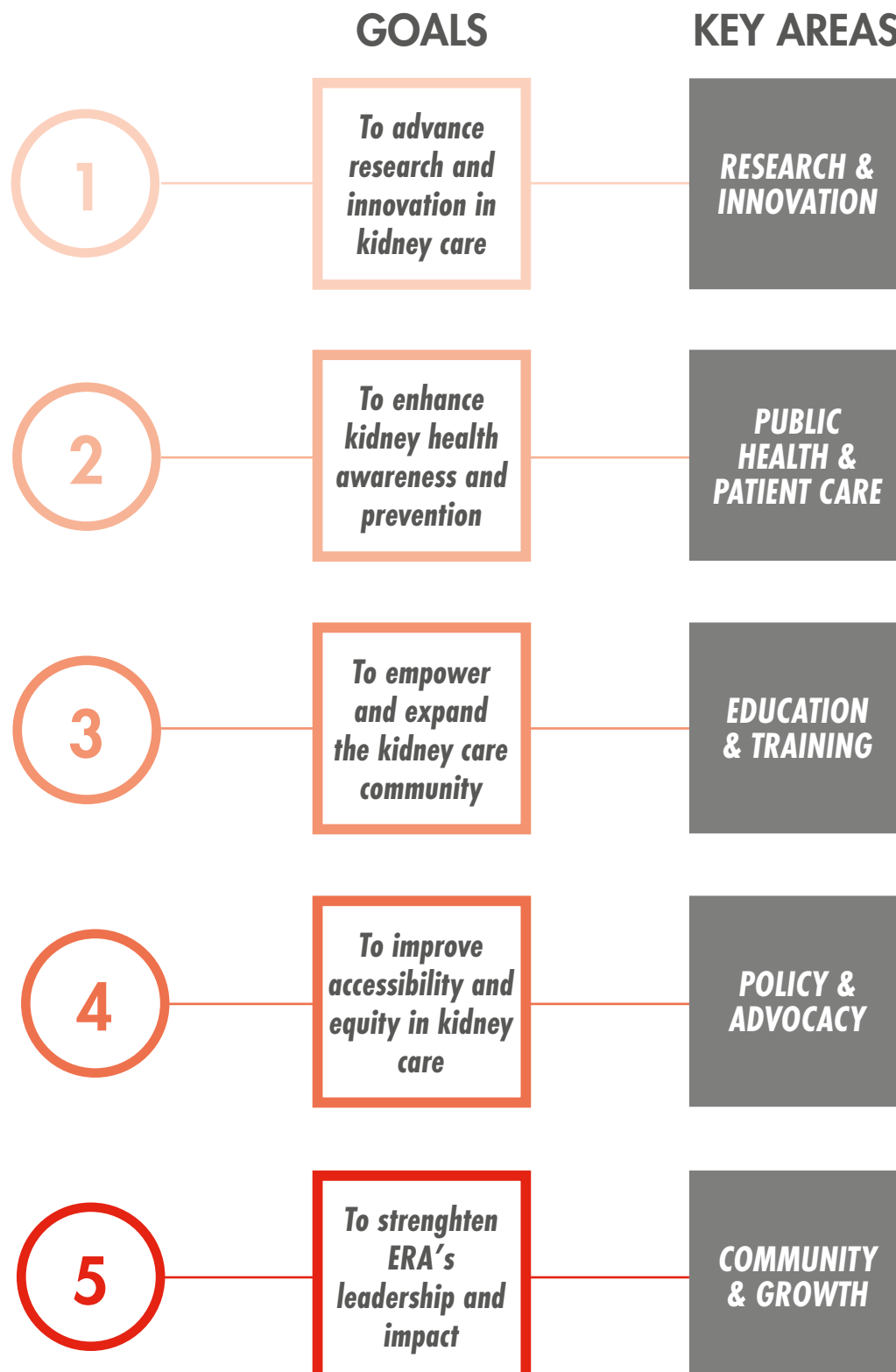
5. Innovation and Adaptability

- Encouraging **forward-thinking initiatives** in kidney care and research.
- Promotion of **digital solutions and AI** in nephrology.
- Continuous evaluation and adaptation to **emerging scientific and healthcare trends**.

6. Public Health Impact

- Raising **awareness** about kidney disease prevention and early detection.
- Partnering with healthcare institutions and policymakers to **influence policy**.
- Strengthening **global collaborations** to enhance kidney health worldwide.

07 Strategic Goals



07 Strategic Goals



GOAL 1:

To advance research and innovation in kidney care

Description	Increase support for external funding programmes for innovative kidney-related research, including new therapies and technologies.
Context	<i>Kidney diseases remain a significant global health challenge with limited advancements in areas such as early detection, personalized treatments, and new therapies. Existing research often focuses on incremental improvements rather than innovations.</i>
Why this goal matters	• Advancing research ensures better outcomes for patients by developing new therapies and improving early detection. • It solidifies ERA's position as a global leader in nephrology and enhances the overall quality of care.
Actions	• Identify key research areas that need to be developed (e.g., AI in nephrology, rare kidney diseases). • Host scientific meetings to produce important ERA backed documents. • Showcase innovative projects during the ERA Congress. • Introduce a Registry communication platform with downloadable and visualized data reports.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

07 Strategic Goals



GOAL 2: To enhance kidney health awareness and prevention

Description	Develop and implement public health campaigns to raise awareness of kidney health and disease prevention. Promote early detection strategies.
Context	<i>Many cases of chronic kidney disease (CKD) are preventable with proper education and early intervention. However, public awareness of kidney health remains low in many regions, leading to delayed diagnoses and worse outcomes.</i>
Why this goal matters	• Raising awareness empowers individuals to take preventive actions, reducing the burden of kidney diseases on healthcare systems. • Prevention-focused strategies align with ERA's mission of promoting kidney health for all.
Actions	• Develop international awareness campaigns with multilingual educational materials (i.e. culturally tailored content for diverse populations). • Partner with schools and communities to disseminate information on risk factors. • Promote regular kidney function screenings.

PUBLIC HEALTH & PATIENT CARE

07 Strategic Goals



GOAL 3: To empower and expand the kidney care community

Description	Foster a diverse, inclusive community of healthcare professionals, researchers, and patients. Create programmes to develop the next generation of kidney care leaders.
Context	<i>The nephrology workforce is facing challenges, including burnout, declining interest among medical students, and limited professional development opportunities. Expanding and engaging the kidney care community is essential for sustaining high-quality kidney care.</i>
Why this goal matters	• A well-connected and engaged kidney care community enhances knowledge-sharing and collaboration. • Investing in professional growth ensures a strong future workforce in nephrology. • A dynamic network fosters leadership development and career progression.
Actions	• Create a European nephrology curriculum and enhance the current nephrology exam. • Offer fellowships and networking opportunities for early-career professionals. • Promote diversity in leadership by supporting underrepresented groups.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

07 Strategic Goals



GOAL 4: To improve accessibility and equity in kidney care

Description	Advocate for universal access to high-quality kidney care across Europe. Work to reduce disparities in kidney healthcare outcomes.
Context	<i>Significant inequalities exist in kidney care across Europe, particularly in early diagnosis, dialysis access, and transplantation rates. Economic, geographic, and systemic barriers prevent many patients from receiving optimal care.</i>
Why this goal matters	• Equitable access ensures all patients receive quality kidney care, regardless of location or socioeconomic status. • Addressing disparities aligns with ERA's mission of improving kidney health for all. • Reducing healthcare inequalities leads to better long-term patient outcomes and system-wide cost savings.
Actions	• Work with policymakers to integrate kidney care into national healthcare plans and allocate resources effectively.
POLICY & ADVOCACY	

07 Strategic Goals



GOAL 5: To strengthen ERA's leadership and impact

Description	Position the ERA as a leader in global kidney health through strategic partnerships and initiatives. Enhance transparency, communication, and collaboration with stakeholders.
Context	<i>ERA is a key player in the nephrology community, but there is potential to further expand its leadership role, influence healthcare policy, and increase engagement among nephrologists and researchers worldwide.</i>
Why this goal matters	• Strengthening ERA's leadership ensures it remains at the forefront of nephrology advancements. • A larger and more engaged membership base increases ERA's ability to drive change. • Greater policy influence improves kidney care systems at a global scale.
Actions	• Create strategic alliances with global kidney health organizations. • Host conferences and webinars on shared challenges in nephrology.
COMMUNITY & GROWTH	

