31 May 2018

**World No Tobacco Day 2018**

Gathered at its annual meeting, the members of the European Heart Network (EHN) today celebrate the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). This year, WNTD focuses on the impact tobacco has on the cardiovascular health of people worldwide.

Tobacco use is an important risk factor for the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. Despite the known harms of tobacco to heart health, and the availability of solutions to reduce related death and disease, knowledge among large sections of the public that tobacco is one of the leading causes of cardiovascular disease is low.

EHN and its members welcome this year’s focus on heart disease and stroke and will continue to work on raising awareness within the broader public of the impact that tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke have on cardiovascular health. Tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure contribute to approximately 12% of all heart disease deaths. Tobacco use is the second leading cause of CVD, after high blood pressure.

EHN will also continue to advocate for effective tobacco control policies throughout Europe. We are proud to announce that our Director has been awarded the WHO World No Tobacco Day Award. EHN will also continue to advocate for effective tobacco control policies throughout Europe.