



## YEPNS Committee Memorandum

**Date: 05/2025**

The initiative to establish a section of young EPNS members originated from the EPNS board. The founding meeting of the Young EPNS Committee took place in November 2020.

The main objectives of YEPNS are:

- To raise awareness of the EPNS among young professionals starting out or already working in the field of paediatric neurology.
- To highlight and promote the existing EPNS resources, ensuring they are visible and accessible, and allow young members to derive maximum benefit from them.
- To identify and develop new resources that address the specific needs of early-career members.
- To enhance the voice of young members within EPNS and in related neurology societies.
- To foster professional and personal connections among members of YEPNS and with other societies.

The ultimate goal is to support the professional development of early-career paediatric neurologists and to contribute to the advancement of paediatric neurology in Europe and beyond—ultimately benefiting our patients.

YEPNS is represented by a committee of approximately 25 members, each of whom is expected to meet certain criteria and adhere to established rules to ensure effective functioning and sustainable growth of the group. These requirements and rules have been developed and validated by the current committee members and are binding for both candidates and elected members.

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## **Candidate Requirements**

1. Must be a registered and paid EPNS member.
  2. Must be under 38 years at the time of election, allowing for a minimum of a consecutive 2-year terms.
  3. Must practice in Europe.
  4. Must currently be in training in paediatric neurology or have completed training within the past five years, before election.
  5. Must actively participate in at least one working group.
  6. Must commit to serving a minimum of one full 2-year term as an active committee member according to the requirements for elected members.
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## **Requirements for Elected Members**

### **1. Meeting Attendance**

- a. Regular attendance at committee meetings (typically 3 per year) is expected
- b. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, they are expected to inform the group in advance via email or the WhatsApp group.
- c. If a member misses more than two meetings without valid justification, the committee reserves the right to review their membership status.
- d. YEPNS committee meetings are closed to committee members only. In cases of unavailability, a pre-selected representative from the same working group may attend in place of the member.

### **2. Active Participation**

- a) Each member is expected to be actively involved in at least one working group, including attending regular online working group meetings (typically 4–6 per year).
- b) Committee-related questions and requests should be answered in a timely manner.
- c) Members who do not demonstrate active participation may be assigned specific tasks by the Chair or other committee members.
- d) Participation in EPNS Congresses and other society activities (e.g., educational webinars) is strongly encouraged.
- e) Members who fail to engage actively in at least one working group, may have their committee membership reviewed.

### **3. General rules**

The YEPNS Committee is committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and equitable environment for all members.

All members are expected to uphold the following key principles:

- a) **Non-Discrimination:** All decisions and discussions within the Committee are made solely based on alignment with YEPNS values, without discrimination and regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background.

- b) **Geographical and Cultural Diversity:** Special attention is given to ensuring representation across different regions and cultural backgrounds to reflect the diversity of Europe and the global paediatric neurology community.
  - c) **Accessibility and Inclusion:** The Committee seeks to ensure that all activities, meetings, and communications are accessible and inclusive for all members.
  - d) **Zero Tolerance for Harassment:** YEPNS maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward any form of harassment, discrimination, or exclusionary behavior.
  - e) **Sustainability:** YEPNS Committee is dedicated to promoting sustainability in all its activities, aligning with the broader goals of environmental responsibility and must contribute to a more sustainable future—for our communities, our healthcare systems, and our planet.
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### **Election Process for Committee members**

1. Elections are held every two years, typically before or during the EPNS Congress. Results are announced and new members welcomed at the YEPNS Night event.
  2. Candidates must submit a short CV and a motivation letter using the pre-form template available on the EPNS website by **May 31st** of the election year. All applications should be sent to **info@epns.info**.
  3. A subcommittee—composed of the committee chairs and up to two additional members—reviews applications and selects candidates based on the defined requirements and the candidacy application.
  4. During the pre-selection process, the candidate's country of practice will be considered to promote geographical diversity. In cases of equal qualification, representation across Europe will be a deciding factor.
  5. All current committee members vote. In the event of a tie, the YEPNS Chair casts the deciding vote.
  6. Voting is weighted: each member casts as many votes as there are available seats (e.g., two votes if two positions are open).
  7. The number of individuals elected will correspond to the number of outgoing members and/or the number of open seats on the committee (currently capped at 25 members).
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### **Election Process for Committee Chair**

1. YEPNS is led by one Chairperson who represents YEPNS on the EPNS Board and serves as the official contact person for other societies and committees.
2. The Chairperson must be willing to participate in EPNS Board meetings and fulfill all related obligations.
3. The Chairperson must be an active committee member.

4. The Chairperson is elected every two years by the committee and serves a minimum term of two years.
5. Each committee member casts one vote in the election.
6. Interested candidates must submit their application by **May 31<sup>st</sup> of the election year either to [info@epns.info](mailto:info@epns.info) or to the current Chair**, including a brief candidate statement outlining their motivation and vision for YEPNS.
7. If only one candidate applies, they must receive at least 50% of affirmative votes from committee members to be elected.
8. If no applications are received and the current Chairperson is willing to continue, their term extension must be validated by all committee members.
9. The hand over between the outgoing and incoming Chairperson occurs in person during an EPNS Board meeting, during which the outgoing Chair formally introduces the new Chair to the Board.