

Kidney Disease: An Important Global Health Priority

The European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) is fully aligned with 21 international kidney organisations, including patient organisations, as signatories to a joint letter calling on all United Nations Member States to clearly recognize kidney health as an important goal in the Political Declaration to be adopted at the Fourth UN High-Level Meeting (HLM4) on NCDs, scheduled for 25 September 2025.

Kidney disease is an important global public health concern and imposes a high burden on affected individuals. Around 13 % of the European adult population lives with chronic kidney disease (CKD), but around 80 % are unaware of this. CKD is a major cause and complication of hypertension, is present in 1 in 3 people with diabetes, and is a significant risk factor for heart disease.

Progression to kidney failure is associated with very high costs of care (dialysis and transplantation) and environmental impact, and leads to premature death, especially in young adults and children.

Importantly, highly effective simple therapies to stabilize kidney function and reduce complications and health care costs are now available - but are severely under-used.

Recognizing this, **in May 2025 the World Health Assembly adopted the first-ever Resolution on Kidney Health (EB156(20))**.

This landmark Resolution acknowledges kidney disease as a rapidly escalating public health challenge, and emphasises that **strengthening the prevention and control of kidney disease is a crucial part of global efforts to reduce the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and advance universal health coverage (UHC)**.

It calls on all countries to:

- Integrate kidney health into national NCD strategies and policies
- Promote public health strategies to prevent kidney disease
- Track the burden of kidney disease
- Integrate CKD detection, prevention, and management within primary care
- Develop affordable, sustainable, and high-quality kidney care
- Ensure equitable access to the full spectrum of kidney care services

This Resolution represents a significant step forward — but **adoption alone is not enough**. Concrete implementation is essential to translate these commitments into improved outcomes for millions of people living with kidney disease.

□ HLM4 is a unique opportunity to embed these commitments into the global NCD agenda. EKHA urges all Member States to ensure kidney health is explicitly reflected in the final Political Declaration.

European Kidney Health Alliance

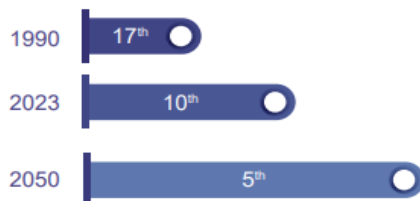
Kidney Manifesto

– An EU strategy to improve kidney care during the 2024-2029 mandate

We call on the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union to: 1) recognise kidney disease as a public health emergency 2) prioritise kidney health in relevant initiatives 3) work towards the adoption of an ambitious EU policy plan on kidney health

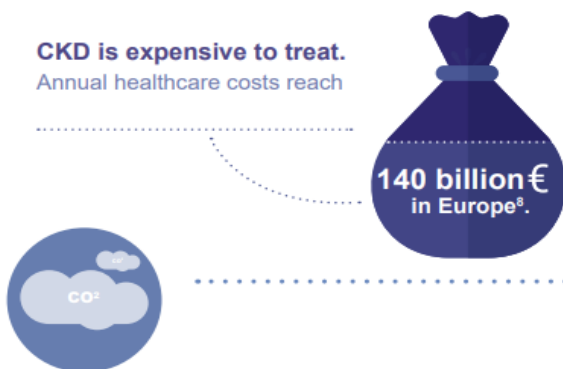
Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is one of the highest-burden non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

CKD is currently the 9th leading cause of death globally, up from 17th in 1990^{1,2}.



IF WE DON'T ACT NOW
CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE
WILL BECOME THE 5TH LEADING
CAUSE OF DEATH BY 2050⁵.

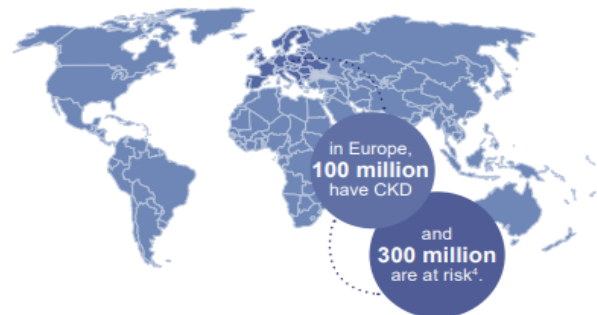
CKD is expensive to treat.
Annual healthcare costs reach



CKD is associated with a substantial environmental burden.

Dialysis consumes enormous amounts of water⁹, generates lots of plastic waste^{10,11}, and is responsible for up to 50% of healthcare greenhouse gases emissions¹².

Worldwide more than
850 million individuals
have kidney diseases³.



Patients suffer from poor quality of life due to the many side-effects of treatments.



This results in significant productivity losses, with unemployment rates in patients with CKD reaching up to

75%^{6,7}.

CKD suffers from a blatant lack of recognition in European health policies and initiatives.

This results in a lack of awareness and absent prevention measures, late diagnosis, gaps in funding for research and innovation and poor patient outcomes.



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EKHA is registered in the EU Transparency Register: 582565214754-24