

European Region Annual Report 2025

Introduction

By the end of the year, the team had reached out to 115 contacts across all 53 countries and territories in the region, 75 of whom are regularly involved in Global Initiative activities. The region participated in the Situation Analysis exercise during 2025 – 27 country contacts have provided a full response to date. Dissemination efforts included the coordination of a pre-conference workshop at the IASP World Congress in Vienna, and the delivery of a webinar as part of the IASP global series which focused on postvention within the region.

Structure

Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler of Austria has been the regional coordinator for the region since Partnerships for Life – Global Initiative to Prevent Suicide was established by IASP in 2021. During 2025, a regional team was established with designated leads for three sub-regions:

- Professor Vita Poštuvan leads the South sub-region which covers Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.
- Dr Zrinka Laido leads the East sub-region which covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Professor Fabrice Jollant leads the West/North sub-region which includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Professor Vita Poštuvan joined Professor Thomas Niederkrotenthaler as co-lead for the region at the end of the year. Dr Alexander Grabehnofer-Eggerth of Austria also joined the regional leadership team. Support was provided from within the IASP Central Office by Sangina Khudododova, Seimon Williams and Wendy Orchard.

Outreach

Through continued efforts to reach out to existing and new partners, firm links have now been established with 75 colleagues across 33 countries. Further contacts are regularly identified and attempts made to strengthen relationships. Additional

contacts have been made through dissemination events, including webinars and in-person conference workshops, symposia and panels. Countries for which no firm contacts have been made to date include the following: Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Albania, Andorra, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan. The Europe regional team would be grateful for information about potential contacts in these and other countries.

Achievements

A key aim of the initiative is to facilitate knowledge exchange. In previous years, a series of online workshops were held which attracted participants from over 30 countries. During 2025, efforts focused on the following:

Situation Analysis

The situation analysis process assigned countries to one of three categories.

- Countries about whom little was known by the regional team or where no firm contact had been identified were assigned to Stage 1. Desk research on publicly available information was undertaken by the regional team in these cases in preparation for potential contact in future. Twenty-two countries in the region were placed in this category, with 17 Stage 1 questionnaires completed up to the end of 2025.
- Countries which were fairly new to the programme were assigned to Stage 2 and asked to complete an online form. Fifteen countries were included in this category, with six responses received by the end of the year.
- Countries about which a significant amount was known, or where there were existing strong links with the regional team, were asked to complete a Stage 3 online questionnaire. Twenty-five countries were identified as falling within this category, of which 21 had completed a full response by the end of 2025.

The regional team is grateful to all those who were able to take part during the year. The global Steering Group will now review information submitted with a view to publishing the findings of the exercise. Further information will be shared with regional partners in due course.

Webinar

The regional team coordinated a Europe-focused webinar on postvention on 14 October 2025. The session was chaired by Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler, with three excellent presentations given during the session. Dr. Regina Seibl of Pro Mente Tirol/SUPRA discussed Postvention for mental health professionals after patient

suicide; Professor Vita Poštuvan (Deputy Head of the Slovene Centre for Suicide Research (UP IAM)) discussed School-Based Suicide Postvention: Needs, Practices and Challenges, while Associate Professor Edouard Leaune (Adult Psychiatry at University Claude Bernard Lyon 1) spoke about Platform Espoir. Around 120 people joined the session, which remains available to view on the IASP website at <https://youtu.be/wgL56BRzuWs?si=CFllLdYulEnObM1J>

IASP World Congress, Vienna

Thomas Niederkrotenthaler co-chaired the 33rd IASP World Congress in Vienna in June 2025. The European team helped to coordinate a pre-Congress Workshop on 10th June. Joy Ladurner of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, who had previously presented to the series of European workshops on the EU Joint Action Implemental programme, co-facilitated the session with the Global Lead Steve Platt. The workshop – attended by 50 participants from 27 countries, including many from outside Europe – considered a range of topics including: what is known about suicidal behaviour; how to make things happen in suicide prevention; what is the relevant context; how to achieve authentic engagement with people with lived experience; how people working in the field can know they're on the right track.

A full report on the workshop can be found on the IASP website at <https://www.iasp.info/2025/08/05/advancing-global-dialogue-on-national-suicide-prevention-strategies/>

Conclusion

2025 was a busy year for the regional team in Europe. The central team has been strengthened by the recruitment of members to the regional leadership team, and the leadership role will now be shared by Thomas Niederkrotenthaler and Vita Postuvan. Preparations were already underway at the end of the year for this year's ESSSB in Lithuania at the end of August. With further contributions to the global webinar series, analysis of the findings of the Situation Analysis and the potential for both global and regional publications, 2026 promises to be another productive year.

Prof Thomas Niederkrotenthaler
Prof Vita Poštuvan
Prof Fabrice Jollant
Dr Zrinka Laido
Dr Alexander Grabenhofer Eggerth

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