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Country: **Greece**

Titel of the project: **The NEDAFISP project in North-Eastern Greece**

## Project details

### **KONSTANTINOS VADIKOLIAS**

HELLENIC STROKE SOCIETY (GREEK SOCIETY OF CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES)

Award amount: €50,000

“NETWORK FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AND STROKE PREVENTION IN NORTH-EASTERN GREECE” (The NEDAFISP project) is the establishment of a multicenter interdisciplinary interactive collaborative network by the Cardiology and the Neurology Departments - Democritus University of Thrace in Greece, under the auspice of the Greek Society of Cerebrovascular Diseases

MISSION The Greek region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace is a large (approx.200x50km), mostly rural area with a still suboptimal level of patient care, particularly concerning the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Deficiencies are primarily due to the lack of a standardized state-of-the-art screening for AF in patients at risk, and the absence of direct communication between cardiologists and neurologists. We envisage a multidisciplinary network and interactive online platform which will help erase these weaknesses. AIM To establish a multicenter interdisciplinary interactive collaborative network which will promote the awareness and early detection of AF, and thus significantly contribute to improved stroke prevention in this southeastern region of Europe. METHODS – ACTIVITIES Phase 1 Recruitment of all neurology and cardiology public centers\* in the region. (approx. population of 700,000 individuals). These sites will form the NEDAFISP. \*departments and outpatient clinics in 5 public community hospitals and the University Hospital of Alexandroupolis (UHA). Phase 2 a.Development of a fast fact sheet (FFS) containing a predetermined set of criteria which will qualify patients at risk in cardiology and neurology clinics. The FFS will be distributed to the collaborating centers in the form of a two-page leaflet: FFS-page A – Cardiology: history of palpitations, syncope or presyncope; age over 65 years; arterial hypertension; diabetes mellitus; documented coronary artery disease; significant mitral or aortic valve disease; clinical symptoms of heart failure or a reduced (<50%) left ventricular ejection fraction on echocardiography. FFS-page B – Neurology: prior TIAs, “cryptogenic” stroke, multi-infarct dementia, silent infarcts in neuroimaging. b.Creation of a NEDAFISP interactive website (online database for enrollment of all potential candidates for screening). Each center will have its own identification code to log in for the registration of patients who fulfill the inclusion criteria. c.Training of the personnel (in recruitment, detection of AF episodes on the Holter monitor, etc). d.Equipment of all participating centers with Holter monitoring devices for the examination on site. The devices should also be capable of transmitting the recorded ECG data to the central Holter monitor reading laboratory. Phase 3 a.Establishment of a central (core) Holter monitor reading laboratory. b.Establishment of a central interdisciplinary Thrombosis and Anticoagulation Service for patients with AF (UHA). The team which will be formed by the Coordinator and will comprise Cardiologists, Neurologists and trained nurses. NETWORK ADMINISTRATION All NEDAFISP activities will be continuously supervised by the Coordinator team at the UHA. EVALUATION At regular intervals, the Coordinator will analyze the checked data to determine the number of patients screened and that of the cases with detected AF. The Coordinator will inform each site on the results of the analysis of its patients and resolve any discrepancies. CONCLUSION – IMPORTANCE We anticipate that development of the “NEDAFISP project” will significantly improve the quality of care of a large population by -leading to more effective primary and secondary stroke prevention; -enhancing the multidisciplinary collaboration between neurologists and cardiologists; -increasing the awareness for the importance of early AF detection in the primary care setting.

## **Audience**

### **Type**

- AF Patients
- Healthcare professionals
- Carers of AF Patients
- General public
- patients at risk

### **Location**

Greece, Europe