



● Eastern European Activities

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The members of the European Plasma Alliance (EPA) are committed to providing safe, effective, lifesaving therapies to patients. However, in Europe, many countries do not have sufficient—or even any—plasmapheresis systems in place.

In order to keep pace with the ever-increasing demand and meet patient needs, EPA members support efforts to build safe and reliable plasmapheresis programs in all European countries and cooperate with all those willing to contribute to this goal.

Plasma collection in Europe has significantly evolved in recent years. Currently only four countries are able to notably provide plasma for manufacturing these therapies. EPA members currently operate 99 centers in Europe, mainly in Germany (69), Austria (17), Hungary (9), and the Czech Republic (4). In 2016, these centers collected 2.6 million liters of plasma for manufacturing therapies. There are very strict regulatory requirements in place to guarantee the quality and safety of the donations and the health of donors, irrespective of their origin.

Plasma collection in Europe remains challenging not only from a policy point of view but also from a socioeconomic

point of view. Europe is not one but 28 different countries with not only different languages but also different cultures and interpretations. Plasma donation remains unknown in many of these countries and educating and informing the public is a first step.

To create awareness for the industry, plasma donation, and the diseases that are treated with plasma protein therapies, the EPA has started an active outreach to diverse stakeholders in different European countries. The “Go East” initiative (so named because the first three countries selected were from Eastern Europe) is important because of the growing clinical demand for plasma-derived medicinal products. In collaboration with regulators, national plasmapheresis programs should be promoted and supported.

Every donation counts! It is very important to continue to educate about the need for these therapies. The foundation of safe plasma protein therapies is healthy plasma donors, technological and scientific advancement, and constantly improving manufacturing methods. ●