

# Guidelines Office

Strategic Plan 2027 – 2030



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# Foreword from the Guidelines Office Board

The European Association of Urology (EAU) Guidelines Office (GO) has undergone a significant transformation over the past strategic cycle. Building on more than two decades of guidelines experience, the GO has evolved from a producer of high-quality clinical practice guidelines into a dynamic and digitally enabled guidelines platform that supports clinicians, patients, researchers and policy makers across Europe and beyond. This Strategic Plan for 2027–2030 sets out our ambition for the next phase of development. Our goal is clear: to ensure that EAU Guidelines remain the most trusted, clinically relevant and impactful source of urological guidance internationally.

Healthcare systems are evolving rapidly. Advances in digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), real-world evidence and implementation science are transforming how healthcare knowledge is produced, accessed and applied in clinical practice. At the same time, clinicians and patients increasingly expect guidance that is timely, accessible, transparent and embedded within clinical workflows.

To meet these expectations, the EAU GO will focus on five strategic pillars over the next four years:

1. Methodology and Living Guideline Operations
2. Digital Products and Clinical Decision Support
3. Real-World Evidence and Data Ecosystems
4. Implementation Science, Uptake and Policy Impact
5. Governance, Sustainability and Strategic Partnerships

Together, these pillars will strengthen the methodological rigour of the EAU Guidelines, expand their digital reach, support implementation in clinical practice and protect the integrity and sustainability of the EAU Guidelines ecosystem in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

This strategy reflects our continued commitment to innovation, collaboration and excellence in guideline development. Most importantly, it reflects our shared ambition to improve the quality of urological care and outcomes for patients worldwide.

# Executive Summary

The EAU GO Strategic Plan 2027–2030 defines the next phase in the growth of the EAU Guidelines programme.

The previous strategic cycle established the foundations for a modern guidelines ecosystem through the development of digital products, implementation initiatives, methodological innovation and collaborative international projects. The next four years will focus on consolidating and scaling these developments to ensure that the EAU Guidelines remain responsive, accessible and clinically impactful.

The strategy is built around five interconnected strategic pillars.

## **Pillar 1 Methodology and Living Guideline Operations**

The GO will strengthen its methodology framework and progressively implement modular and responsive living guideline processes. This will support more efficient updates in rapidly evolving clinical areas while maintaining the methodological integrity and transparency that underpin the EAU Guidelines. The GO will also explore the responsible application of AI within the systematic review process, including validated approaches to evidence screening, prioritisation and workflow optimisation, while ensuring appropriate human oversight and methodological governance.



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## **Pillar 2 Digital Products and Clinical Decision Support**

The GO will further develop a coherent portfolio of digital products, including the EAU Guidelines App, interactive algorithms, clinical decision support (CDS) tools and AI-supported tools that improve access to and navigation of guideline content. These products will be designed around clinical workflow, usability and governance. In parallel, the GO will implement a pilot centralised platform for the production, management and dissemination of EAU Guidelines and associated digital offerings, with the aim of improving consistency, efficiency, interoperability and synchronisation across guideline content and digital products.

## **Pillar 3 Real-World Evidence and Data Ecosystems**

The GO will establish structured approaches for the assessment and integration of real-world evidence into guideline development. Through collaboration with major European data initiatives and methodological experts, the GO aims to become a leading reference in the responsible use of real-world evidence in urology guidelines. This work will be closely aligned with the EAU UroEvidenceHub, which provides an important infrastructure for collaborative data ecosystems, methodological innovation and the sustainable integration of real-world evidence into urological research and guideline development.

## **Pillar 4 Implementation Science, Uptake and Policy Impact**

The GO will strengthen its implementation activities through audit programmes, adherence measurement, educational support and policy engagement. The objective is not only to publish recommendations, but also to understand and improve their impact on clinical practice and patient outcomes. Through initiatives such as the IMAGINE programme, the GO will develop structured approaches to identify barriers to guideline uptake, understand variations in clinical practice and evaluate interventions that support implementation and behaviour change among healthcare professionals.

## **Pillar 5 Governance, Sustainability and Strategic Partnerships**

The GO will continue to strengthen governance frameworks for intellectual property, usage of AI, partnerships and digital sustainability. Strategic collaborations with European and international organisations will support the long-term growth and global reach of EAU Guidelines.

Across all pillars, the strategy is guided by several overarching principles:

- methodological excellence;
- patient-centred care;
- operational sustainability;
- transparency and trust;
- digital innovation;
- equity, diversity and inclusion;
- alignment with the broader EAU 2030 strategy.

## Who we are and what we do

The EAU GO develops and maintains evidence-based clinical practice guidelines covering all major areas of urology. The EAU Guidelines are internationally recognised for their methodological quality, clinical relevance and regular updates and are used by healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers and patients in Europe.

The EAU Guidelines programme currently encompasses multidisciplinary panels involving clinicians, methodologists, nurses, patient representatives, researchers and allied healthcare professionals. These panels are supported by dedicated methodological training and robust evidence review processes coordinated through the EAU GO Methods Committee.

The GO's mission extends beyond guideline publication alone. Increasingly, the GO also develops digital tools, implementation programmes, educational resources and collaborative initiatives that support the translation of evidence into clinical practice.

Through this work, the GO aims to improve the quality, consistency and accessibility of urological care while supporting informed and shared clinical decision-making.

## The Changing Landscape of Guideline Development

Clinical practice guidelines are evolving rapidly. Healthcare professionals increasingly require guidance that is continuously updated, digitally accessible, integrated into clinical workflow and responsive to emerging evidence.

At the same time, technological developments such as AI, CDS tools and large-scale health data platforms are creating new opportunities and new responsibilities, for guideline organisations.

Healthcare systems are also facing increasing pressures associated with sustainability, efficiency, healthcare inequalities, variability in guideline implementation and the growing complexity of clinical care pathways.

In this environment, guideline organisations must move beyond traditional publication models and develop integrated systems that provide greater support for implementation, usability and measurable impact.

The EAU GO is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation within urology through its combination of methodological expertise, international collaborations, digital innovation and implementation infrastructure.

## Alignment with the EAU 2030 Global Strategy

This Strategic Plan is aligned with the EAU 2030 Global Strategy and supports the EAU's ambition to remain a leading international voice in urology. The GO will continue to work closely with other EAU Offices, Sections and initiatives to support a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach that strengthens the impact of EAU activities across clinical practice, education, research and healthcare policy.

# Our strategic ambition

By 2030, EAU Guidelines aims to be:

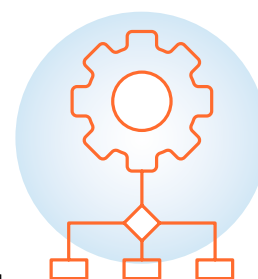
- the most trusted source of urological guidance internationally;
- continuously updated and digitally accessible;
- embedded within clinical workflows;
- supported by robust implementation programmes;
- informed by transparent methodological processes;
- recognised as a strategic knowledge platform within global urology.

## Strategic Pillar 1

### Methodology and Living Guideline Operations

The EAU GO will continue to strengthen the methodological foundation of guideline development while implementing more responsive and scalable update processes.

Over the next four years, the GO will progressively introduce modular guideline structures in rapidly evolving clinical areas, allowing focused updates to specific sections without requiring complete guideline revision cycles. This will support more timely integration of practice changing evidence while maintaining methodological consistency and quality assurance.



The GO will also strengthen:

- evidence surveillance processes;
- update prioritisation workflows;
- transparency of evidence assessment;
- methodological training across all panels.

Patient-reported outcomes and patient-centred evidence will be integrated more consistently throughout the guideline development process.

The GO will further explore carefully governed approaches to workflow optimisation, including validated semi-automation tools for evidence review and screening.

### Key Objectives

- Develop scalable living guideline operations across priority clinical areas
- Improve responsiveness to practice-changing evidence
- Strengthen transparency and reproducibility of methods
- Expand methodological training and harmonisation
- Integrate patient-centred outcomes more consistently across panels

## Strategic Pillar 2

### Digital Products and Clinical Decision Support

Digital tools are now an essential component of modern guideline delivery.

Building on the successful launch of the EAU Guidelines App and the first EAU CDS tools, the GO will further develop a coherent digital ecosystem that supports clinicians in real-world practice.



The EAU Guidelines App will remain the primary digital access point for guideline content and will continue to evolve through user-centred development and structured analytics.

Interactive algorithms, pathway summaries and CDS tools will be expanded in carefully prioritised areas where they provide meaningful clinical value and support implementation of recommendations.

The GO will also continue to develop AI-enabled access tools, including the EAU Guidelines Chatbot, under clear governance frameworks designed to ensure transparency, accuracy, version control and patient safety.

#### Key Objectives

- Expand and optimise the EAU Guidelines App ecosystem
- Develop clinically validated CDS tools in priority disease areas
- Improve accessibility and usability of guideline content
- Ensure governance and regulatory oversight of digital tools
- Explore workflow integration opportunities through strategic partnerships

***Digital tools are now an essential component of modern guideline delivery.***

## Strategic Pillar 3

### Real-World Evidence and Data Ecosystems

Real-world evidence is becoming increasingly important in healthcare decision-making and guideline development.



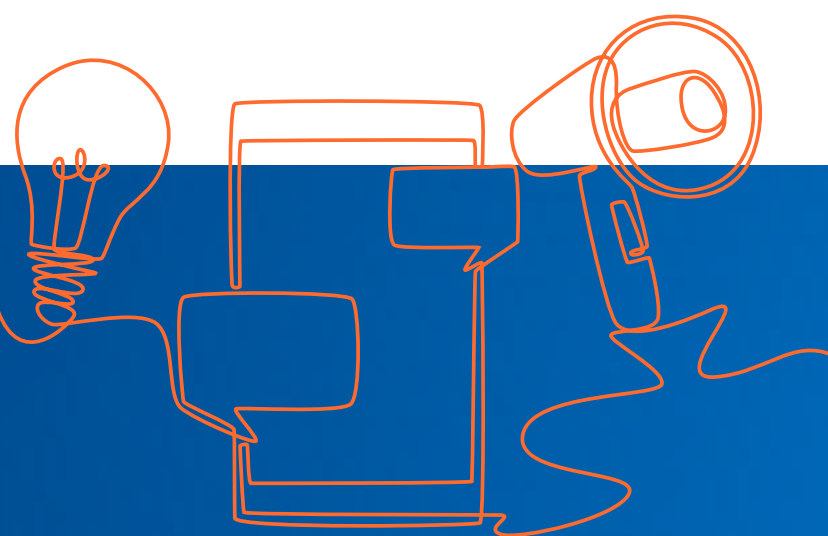
The EAU GO will aim to establish structured and transparent approaches for assessing and incorporating high-quality real-world evidence where it adds meaningful value to guideline recommendations.

Through collaboration with major European initiatives and data infrastructures, including the EAU UroEvidenceHub and other international partners, the GO aims to strengthen methodological frameworks for evaluating observational data and evidence generated outside of traditional clinical trials.

The GO's role will remain focused on evidence assessment and integration within guideline development, while collaborating closely with external data-generating infrastructures and research programmes.

#### Key Objectives

- Develop transparent frameworks for real-world evidence assessment
- Support responsible integration of RWE into guideline development
- Strengthen collaboration with European data initiatives
- Promote methodological innovation in evidence evaluation
- Position EAU as a leader in RWE integration within urology



## Strategic Pillar 4

### Implementation Science, Uptake and Policy Impact

High-quality guidelines only improve patient care when they are effectively implemented in clinical practice.



The GO will continue to strengthen implementation activities through audit programmes, adherence measurement, implementation support and collaboration with educational and policy stakeholders.

Building on initiatives such as the IMAGINE programme, the GO will further develop European-scale infrastructures that allow measurement of practice variation, guideline uptake and implementation outcomes.

The GO will also strengthen its contribution to healthcare policy by translating guideline evidence into accessible, policy-relevant outputs and supporting engagement with European and international health organisations.

#### Key Objectives

- Measure and improve guideline adherence
- Strengthen implementation science capacity
- Reduce unwarranted practice variation
- Support evidence-informed health policy
- Expand multidisciplinary and international collaboration

## Strategic Pillar 5

### Governance, Sustainability and Strategic Partnerships

As the Guidelines programme expands digitally and internationally, strong governance and sustainability frameworks become increasingly important.



The GO will continue to protect the integrity, trustworthiness and intellectual property of EAU Guidelines through robust governance structures covering digital products, AI applications, partnerships and content reuse.

The GO will also strengthen operational sustainability through strategic resource planning, project prioritisation, effective management and international collaboration.

Strategic partnerships with scientific organisations, healthcare institutions, patient organisations, regulatory bodies and academic networks will support the continued global reach and impact of EAU Guidelines.

#### Key Objectives

- Protect the integrity of EAU Guidelines
- Strengthen AI and intellectual property governance
- Ensure operational and resource sustainability
- Develop structured partnership frameworks
- Support leadership development and future talent pipelines

## Guiding Principles

The following principles underpin all strategic activities within the EAU GO:

- **Methodological Excellence**

Scientific rigour and transparency remain the foundation of trust in the EAU Guidelines.

- **Patient-Centred Care**

Patients and patient-reported outcomes will continue to play an important role in guideline development and implementation.

- **Responsible Innovation**

Innovation in digital tools, AI and evidence methods will be carefully governed and aligned with patient safety and clinical quality.

- **Collaboration**

Strong collaboration across disciplines, organisations and countries is essential to maximise impact and avoid duplication.

- **Sustainability**

All initiatives must be operationally sustainable, measurable and aligned with available resources.

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

The GO is committed to inclusive participation, equitable access to guideline resources and diversity across panels and partnerships.

## Looking Ahead

The next four years represent an important opportunity for the EAU Guidelines.

The GO has already established itself as a global leader in evidence-based urology guidance. The challenge now is to build on this success by developing a fully integrated guidelines platform that combines methodological excellence, digital innovation, implementation science and international collaboration.

Through this strategy, the EAU GO reaffirms its commitment to improving urological care and outcomes for patients while ensuring that the EAU Guidelines remain trusted, accessible and relevant in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

The background features a complex geometric pattern of intersecting blue lines and arcs on a white background. A large, solid orange rounded rectangle is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing white text. The lower right portion of the image is a solid dark blue field, which contains a large, faint, light blue arc with short perpendicular tick marks, resembling a compass or a stylized 'D' shape. The overall design is modern and technical.

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