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## What is ECCO

European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation (ECCO) is a fast growing and highly active non-profit association focus on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). ECCO acts inside Europe and encouraging collaboration's beyond Europe's borders allowing anyone around the globe interested in IBD to both benefit from our programmes and services.

### Mission

ECCO aims to improve research, education and collaboration in the area of IBD. Their main objective is to promote all efforts that lead to an improvement of current therapies and procedures.

### Aims

A key aim of ECCO is to promote, sponsor and steer national and international IBD research efforts. They successfully influence IBD management through the development, publication, dissemination and teaching of IBD guidelines and other educational materials. Within their objectives, ECCO facilitates and promotes the education of health care professionals in the field of IBD. They enhance the quality of research in the field of IBD, both in basic science and clinical science.

ECCO takes a political voice in Europe and collaborates with organizations sharing an interest in IBD, including medical societies, patient organizations and industries and participates in the activities of the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF) and in the organization of the annual United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW).

### Country Members

Since the foundation in 2001, ECCO has embraced 31 country members which are the driving force and seen as their ambassadors spreading the ECCO spirit, such as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Netherland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.



### History

ECCO was founded in Vienna, Austria, in 2001 as an umbrella organization for national Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) study groups in Europe. They expanded from an organization with 14 Country Members to an association comprising 31 affiliated countries in 2008.



More information: <http://www.ecco-ibd.eu>