

Context

Following the intensive activity levels in 2024 and 2025, Vasculitis International has designated **2026 as a year of consolidation and strategic development**. The focus will be on strengthening infrastructure, enhancing collaboration, and increasing awareness, while safeguarding volunteer capacity and organisational sustainability. This approach is fully aligned with the Strategic Plan 2025–2027 and the conclusions of the Activity Report 2025.

Strategic Priorities 2026 (Overview)

1. Consolidation and International Alignment

- No European Vasculitis Patient Summit will be organised in 2026.
- The Summit will be rescheduled to **spring 2027**, allowing sufficient preparation time and preserving quality.
- Vasculitis International will participate in the **International Vasculitis Workshop 2026 (Melbourne)** to strengthen international alignment and ensure continued engagement with the global medical and research community.

2. Strengthening Digital Infrastructure

- The main Vasculitis International website (**vasculitisint.com**) will be upgraded to:
 - improve content management
 - provide a more modern look and feel
- A dedicated **Library section** will be developed within this website, offering:
 - explainers
 - tools and guidance for patient representatives
 - reusable resources on a range of organisational and advocacy-related topics

3. Conduct a Feasibility Study to develop a Multilingual Information Platform

- Conduct a feasibility study to develop a **multilingual vasculitis.eu website**.
- This platform will focus on **generic, non-country-specific information** about vasculitis, including:
 - disease overviews
 - general treatment principles
 - global perspectives
 - high-level information on current research, clinical trials, and scientific developments,
- The site will **not** address local patient support or advocacy issues, but will provide clear referrals to national patient organisations for such matters.
- All of this presented in an accessible, patient-oriented manner

4. Supporting Collaboration Among German-Speaking Patient Groups

- Financial and organisational support will be provided to facilitate a **meeting of German Selbsthilfe Gruppen** and other patient organisations seeking closer collaboration.
- This initiative will preferably be undertaken:
 - in cooperation with the German Rheuma Liga
 - with involvement of recognised vasculitis centres and specialists
- The project will build on the **project group established within Vasculitis International in 2025**, ensuring continuity and shared ownership.

5. Strengthening Internal Engagement and Governance

- Organisation of an in-person meeting of the **Vasculitis International Council** in the Netherlands.
- The Council consists of approximately 20 active representatives, one from each member country, who have demonstrated sustained engagement with Vasculitis International.
- The meeting will focus on:
 - alignment of priorities
 - mutual learning
 - strengthening commitment and collaboration within the network

6. Awareness and Advocacy Initiatives

- Launch of an initiative encouraging all Vasculitis International members to actively contribute to **rare disease awareness**, building on existing frameworks and materials developed by **EURORDIS**.
- In collaboration with partners, initiation of a coordinated approach to **International Vasculitis Day (15 May)**, encouraging member organisations to undertake activities in a broadly aligned manner to:
 - raise awareness
 - improve knowledge and understanding of vasculitis

Governance and Implementation Approach

- Activities in 2026 will be developed and implemented with due regard to:
 - available volunteer capacity
 - financial prudence
 - organisational sustainability
- Several initiatives will be **developed iteratively** during the year, allowing flexibility where further shaping is required.
- The Legal Board will retain oversight to ensure alignment with strategic objectives and responsible use of grant funding.

Positioning for Stakeholders

This Action Plan 2026:

- demonstrates consolidation rather than expansion for its own sake
- prioritises sustainable impact over volume of activities
- prepares Vasculitis International for a strong continuation into 2027
- offers funders a clear, realistic, and well-governed framework for support

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