



The Billion Euro Burden on Europe

Blindness and vision impairment
affect **over 28 million people** living in Europe¹

In Europe, **1 in 30 individuals** experiences sight loss



of these **75% are unemployed**

According to the WHO
50% of all cases
of blindness in Europe
are preventable

- The economic burden per blind person is nearly **€10,000** per year²
- **123 million working days** are lost per year in Europe³
- **Blind and visually impaired people have a greater risk of falls and motor vehicles accidents**⁴



Rapid rise
in the incidence of
eye disease

The main causes of preventable blindness in Europe are glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and cataract

Glaucoma is the number one preventable disease in Europe that can cause blindness

Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness in people of working age in Europe

- Germany, France, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and Great Britain alone have more than 26 million people suffering from these diseases⁵
- About 3.8 million people in the above mentioned countries suffer from glaucoma, 2.8 million from wet age-related macular degeneration and about 1.8 million from diabetic retinopathy
- **Research is necessary to address the burden of eye diseases and to propose cost-effective preventive measures**

(1) World Health Organization, Global data on visual impairment, 2010, <http://www.who.int/blindness/GLOBLDOWI?lang=en>
(2) European Forum Against Blindness (2018) October 2014, study conducted by Deutsche Angewandte Experten in seven European countries
(3) European Forum Against Blindness (2018) October 2014, http://www.efab.eu/en/pdf/2014_text_international_en.pdf, 34 and 35 pp.
(4) J. Ramus, Acta Ophthalmologica 2012; 90: 219-221