



# **EPF Youth Strategy and Youth Group Activities in 2011 and plans for 2012**

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**President of the EPF Youth Group**

**EPF 2012 Annual General meeting, Brussels 18 April 2012**



# What is the EPF Youth Strategy?

## **GOAL:**

To enable EPF to recognise, understand, meet and effectively represent the *needs and expectations of young patients* through their *meaningful involvement* and empowerment

## **EPF Youth strategy has four objectives:**

1. Strengthening the involvement and representation of young patients in patient organisations
2. Promoting young patients' rights and recognition of their needs and expectations within and beyond health policy area
3. Promoting a better cooperation between young patient and adult patient advocates
4. Strengthening young patient representatives' skills and self-confidence



# Why a Youth Strategy?

## **Rationale behind the Youth Strategy:**

- Being a patient impacts on every aspect of a person's life
- Needs and expectations of young patients do not necessarily match those of adult patients
- Patient organisations need to listen to young patients and provide them with appropriate tools and avenues through which their needs and expectations can be put forward



# Recent developments

- The Youth Strategy was adopted by the EPF 2011 AGM
- The Youth Group was set up in April 2011 and the recruitment is still on-going
- 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Meeting was held in Brussels in August 2011
- Representatives of the Youth Group attended the Conference on Rights and Needs of Old Patients (Warsaw July 2011) and the IV Regional Advocacy Seminar (Bucharest October 2011)
- A proposal for a first youth project was submitted under the EU Youth In Action Programme in February 2012 (awaiting results)



# EPF Youth Group

- EPF Youth Group is established as the **backbone** of the EPF Youth Strategy
- Currently made up of **11 young patient representatives** nominated by EPF members from eight European countries between 15 and 25 years of age
- The Youth Group is the reference group through which needs and expectations of the young patient community are formulated and communicated to EPF



# Youth Group Members

Alin Bujan	Romania
Andrew Zammit McKeon	Malta
Arron Gill	United Kingdom
Borislava Ananieva	Bulgaria
Daniela Attard	Malta
Keily Tarkmeel	Estonia
Kristina Mäger	Estonia
Marek Marszalek	Poland
Marlou Schenk	Netherlands
Marta Dimitrova	Bulgaria
Simonas Stoncius	Lithuania



# Potential Members of the Youth Group

Martha Carabott	Malta
Merily Kokk	Estonia
Miroslava Dimitrova	Bulgaria
Yolita Pavlova	Bulgaria



# 1st Annual Youth Meeting

**Brussels, 19-21 August 2011**

## **Main activities:**

- Identifying stakeholders with whom EPF has close relations
- Brainstorming on the reasons to have a youth strategy
- Policy role-play: patient involvement in clinical trials
- Understanding how EU policy making works
- How to define project's objectives and developing ideas for the first Youth Group Project (through EU Youth in Action Programme)

## **Outcomes:**

- Selected the idea for the first youth project
- Elected the youth board and allocated responsibilities
- Selected the logo of the EPF Youth Group.







# EMPATHY

## Europe Meets Young Patients

### Purpose

To organise a four-day seminar for young patients, European policy-makers, and stakeholder actors in the fields of health, education, social and youth policy, in order to promote a more holistic approach to addressing young patients' needs in EU-level decision-making processes

### How?

Through a mix of young patients and stakeholders-policy makers led activities:

- **Policy role-play**
- **Policy discussions**
- **A day in a young patient's shoes**
- **Simulation of a press conference**



# EMPATHY

## Europe Meets Young Patients

### Resources to be delivered

- Recommendations for policy makers on how to take into account young patients needs
- Recommendations for stakeholder groups on how to take into account young patients needs
- Recommendations for patient organisations on how to involve young patients
- Toolkit for young patient advocates on ways to make their voice heard in EU policy making



# Priorities of the Youth Group for 2012

- Recruiting new members for the Youth Group (target 18 members by December 2012)
- Starting the EMPATHY project (pending outcomes of the application)
- Second Annual Meeting of the Youth Group in Malta, August 2012
- Developing a work plan for 2013
- Involving one member of the Youth Group in the EPF Policy Advisory Group
- Establishing relations with other youth organisations, and youth groups
- Defining a phasing out strategy for “older” members approaching the upper age limit (25 years).



**We want to Get bigger**

**We are still looking for new  
members**

**Nominate your Youth Representative!!**



europeanpatients'forum

**Youth Group**

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**Thank you for your  
attention!**

