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# The European Patients' Forum Annual Work Plan 2016

*Executive Summary*



*What we plan to do in 2016  
to drive better health for patients in Europe.*

## Executive Summary

In 2016, the European Patients' Forum's (EPF) will continue to address patient empowerment as a pre-requisite to achieve equity in healthcare and advance the concept of patients as "co-producers" of health.

The EPF Work Plan for 2016 will focus on **two key objectives**:

- **Strengthening the patient perspective** and impact in EU health-related policy, programmes and decision-making through evidence-based, results-oriented patient advocacy
- **Reinforcing the capacity of patients and patient organisations** to contribute effectively to better health and social care for all patients in the EU and enhancing their accountability and mutual solidarity

## Patient Empowerment

EPF believes that empowered patients who have a proactive role in their health and in health policy are central to sustainable and high quality health systems.

Following the successful launch in 2015 of the **Patient Empowerment Campaign**, EPF will continue to promote the development and implementation of policies, strategies and services that empower patients to be involved in the decision-making and management of their condition. The campaign will end in 2016 with a high-level event and exhibition at the European Parliament, where the "**Charter of Patient Empowerment**" and the "**Multi-stakeholder Roadmap to Patient Empowerment**" will be officially presented.

EPF will further engage in patient empowerment through active participation in many European projects, such as **EUPATI**; the **Chrodis Joint Action**; **SmartCare** and the Patient Safety and Quality of Care (**PASQ**) Joint Action. These projects all aim to promote active patient empowerment in various healthcare-related activities.

## Patient Access

Equitable access to health and social care is a strategic goal of EPF and remains at the core of our vision for healthcare. EPF's focus on access is on **availability**, **affordability**, **appropriateness**, **adequacy** and **acceptability** of healthcare throughout the whole continuum for patients with chronic and long term conditions.

In 2016 EPF will start the preparatory work for a **campaign on access to health and social care**, in order to launch in 2017. This campaign will target EU and national decision makers and health stakeholders. We will involve our membership to show the barriers that patients are facing across the European Union, and collect good practices improving access to quality healthcare. We will then produce patient-centred recommendations on actions to improve access to healthcare in the EU.

Our work on access will also tackle the topics of cross-border healthcare, health technology assessment, patient safety and quality of care.

We will continue to invest greatly in the Patient Access Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative to address all aspects of patient access.

## A vibrant network

Being the only EU-level umbrella patient organisation that is non-disease-specific and acting as a “bridge” between EU developments and patient communities across the Union, EPF will continue to ensure a **clear identity** bringing **clear added value** to its membership. We will build on our vibrant network and **stimulate engagement** with various stakeholders, both at national and European level. Capacity building continues to be a central pillar of our work and EPF will extend its highly regarded programme at national level and at EU level.

A key date for the EPF community is the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** taking place in spring 2016 in Brussels. Alongside the AGM there will be a number of fringe meetings focusing on specific policy themes of interest to members.

EPF will also continue to work with its very energetic **Youth Group**. Made up of patient representatives between 15 and 29 years old, it will focus in 2016 on **transition to adult care**, a key issue for young patients. Proper coordination of responsibilities during this transition is critical and the Group will explore how this can be improved for Europe's young patients.

In 2016 EPF will develop its **communications strategy** with the objective to communicate to **engage, inform** and **persuade**. An important milestone will be the revamping of our website, our flagship communication instrument. We will also strengthen our presence on social media via its Twitter handle, Facebook page and Youtube channel.

