

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



// MARCH 2016 ISSUE

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR SECRETARY GENERAL

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to all our members and colleagues for their messages of support during the tragic events that took place in Brussels last week. In a city hosting numerous European associations, on that day, more than ever we felt part of a united community.

Difficult as it is in these sad times, we continue to pursue unrelentingly our vision: to ensure all patients with chronic and/or lifelong conditions in the EU have access to high quality, patient-centred equitable health and social care.

*With this in mind, on the 22nd and 23rd of March, EPF went ahead with its **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) bringing together more than forty members for two days of governance affairs, exchange and learning.*

*I, Marco Greco, had the privilege and the honour to be elected as President of EPF. Our members also elected **5 new Board members** and the EPF family is happy to welcome **4 new members**. We had the opportunity to thank Anders Olauson, President of EPF since 2005 for his extensive contribution to our organisation, awarding him the lifelong position of Honorary President.*

*Some important news as well regarding our **Patient Empowerment Campaign!** An EPF delegation met with a number of MEPs on the 14th and 15th of March to present the Charter on Patient Empowerment. This has led to further commitments and deeper involvement of key MEP champions in the lead up to our Round Table session in the European Parliament in June.*

*Earlier this month, EPF participated in two **workshops** of the European Medicines Agency, on **Information about Medicines** and **Health Literacy**. The workshops gave the opportunity to patients and healthcare professionals to exchange views on these important topics for patients.*

*EPF also took an active part in an event organised by the **European Forum for Good Clinical Practice** (EFGCP), where participants discussed faster and safer path to medicines and medical devices.*

*On the 11th of March, EPF was invited by DG SANTE to present its work on **cross-border healthcare** in an event organised by the Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group of the European commission.*

*Our **Position Paper on Access to Healthcare** from the perspective of the patients is now available on our website! Thanks to the input of our members, this balanced paper provides helpful information on the definition of access from the patients' perspective.*

*The EPF **Capacity Building Programme** is still going strong with a recent training meeting in Bulgaria, with dedicated sessions on communication strategy and projects leading.*

*On our blog, you will find a report of the **Declaration Festival!** The first International Festival of Health and Human Rights took place in Glasgow on the 11th of March. The event is an initiative of a coalition of health-related alliances in Scotland, including our member there, and focuses on the rights of mental health patients*

Warmest greetings,

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General

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EPF ELECTIONS: NEW PRESIDENT AND NEW MEMBERS!



On the occasion of the European Patients' Forum Annual General Meeting, Marco Greco was elected new President of EPF for a mandate of two years. And our membership is growing: 4 new members have joined EPF!

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EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY: WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICINES



The Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP) and the Healthcare Professionals Working Party (HCPWP) convened for a joint meeting at the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on 8-9 March. The first day consisted in a workshop on communication and information about medicines.

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EFGCP CONFERENCE "FASTER AND SAFER PATHS TO NEW TREATMENTS WITH MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES"

GETTING THE MESSAGE TO MEPS: PATIENT EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN



On the 14th and 15th of March an EPF delegation met with several MEPs in Brussels to present the Charter on Patient Empowerment and the recent developments in the Campaign.

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FIRST EMA WORKSHOP ON HEALTH LITERACY! IMPACT ON RISK COMMUNICATION



On 17 March, the EMA hosted its first ever event on health literacy – a lunchtime talk titled "Getting the message across: How health literacy impacts risk communication". Health literacy involves people's capacity to find, understand and evaluate health-related information and take action about their health.

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CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE - EPF PRESENTATION AT DG SANTE MEETING

WATCH OUR PATIENT EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN VIDEO!

UPCOMING EVENTS

9-11/4/2016 | [7th Global Patients Congress](#)

London, UK

This congress organised by the International Alliance of Patients' Organisations Congress will bring together 200 patient advocates from across the world to share best practice and gain insight into pressing healthcare issues.

EPF speaker:
Anders Olason

18-22/4/2016 | [EUPATI Face-to-Face Training Event](#)

Barcelona, Spain

During this face-to-face training event, the second cohort of trainees of the European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI) will participate in 5 days of interactive lectures, group sessions and networking with other patient advocates.

EPF attendance:
Walter Atzori

26/4/2016 | [EUPATI ExCo Meeting](#)

Munich, Germany

EUPATI Executive Committee Meeting

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

27/4/2016 | [EUPATI AGM](#)

Munich, Germany

Annual General Meeting of the EUPATI project

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington



On the 1st and 2nd march, EPF participated to the Annual Conference of the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice, a multi stakeholder forum that brings together patients, researchers, sponsors, competent authorities and ethics committees. This year's theme was 'Faster and Safer Paths to New Treatments with Medicines and Medical Devices'.

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On the basis of the work EPF has done on cross border healthcare through its regional seminars since 2013, we were invited to contribute to a meeting of the Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group of the European commission (DG Sante) on the 11th of March.

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EPF POSITION PAPER ON ACCESS FROM THE PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVE



EPF has recently published a position paper on defining and measuring access from the patient perspective. The definition was developed throughout 2015 in consultation with our members and with the working group on access.

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STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF PATIENT ORGANISATIONS IN BULGARIA



The thematic training module on communication in Bulgaria started in November 2015. Ten organisations are currently participating in the programme and will develop a communication strategy and dedicated projects with the support of local experts.

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APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 10TH EUROPEAN HEALTH AWARD!

[BLOG] DECLARATION FEST! INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The International Forum Gastein is welcoming applications for the 10th edition of the European Health Award, rewarding a health policy initiative with cross-border scope

March 2016 saw the launch of a brand new festival in Scotland, Declaration, exploring health and human rights. The festival was led by the Mental Health Foundation, in partnership with NHS Health Scotland, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland and the Centre for Health Policy at Strathclyde University.

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