

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



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// OCTOBER 2016 ISSUE

Welcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter! Brussels has been buzzing with many events and activities this October, and here are our highlights!

It is our pleasure to share with you that EPF will run a **public campaign** on the central issue of **Access to Healthcare** in the course of 2017! Focusing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of **Universal Health Coverage for All by 2030**, our campaign will address the challenges faced by patients in terms of access to health and social care and propose avenues to break down these barriers. For more details, see our first article, here below. The **European Parliament own-initiative report on access to medicines**, drafted by MEP Soledad Cabezón-Ruiz (Spain, S&D) has been released! We have analysed the document carefully and have proposed a series of amendments.

Recent weeks have seen EPF represented in many external events. We report here on our participation in the **European Health Forum** that took place in Gastein late September, and you will read on our blog the report of **conference** organised by our Portuguese member on the **involvement of patients in policy shaping**.

The process of **Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** is a significant topic for patients and features as one of our work plan's priorities. In this issue, we share a general update on our recent patient -oriented HTA-related activities.

We also report on a major multi-stakeholder event organised by the European Commission on **biosimilar** medicinal products. As the final report is published, read our take on this important topic!

Our **Capacity Building Programme** in Hungary is reaping dividends! Read our plans for the coming months.

EPF played an important role in a **regional conference held in Pristina**, Kosovo, aiming at supporting patient organisations in securing their place in the political and institutional context of the Western Balkans region.

We also introduce you to **PREFER**, a new initiative on patients' preference elicitation in benefit/risks balance, where EPF sits in the advisory panel to ensure patients' voices are represented.

Enjoy the reading!

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Greco'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Bedlington'.



EPF CAMPAIGN ON UNIVERSAL
HEALTH COVERAGE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REPORT
ON ACCESS TO MEDICINES

**WATCH OUR PATIENT
EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN
VIDEO!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

27/10/2016 | Finnish clinical trials forum



Helsinki

The theme for this year's convention is "Treatment".

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen

In January 2017, EPF will launch its new public campaign on access to health and social care. Taking the approach of universal health coverage, we will work on all aspects of access, calling on members, stakeholders and institutions to join us for this paramount issue for patients.

On 19 September, the European Parliament published a draft own initiative report on EU options for improving access to medicines. The report, drafted by MEP Soledad Cabezón-Ruiz (S&D, Spain), will be discussed at the EP ENVI committee in November, before a final vote scheduled for 12 December.

[04/11/2016 | Expert Meeting on Case-Management Training programmes](#)

Treviso, Italy

The meeting will address the main issues concerning case-management training programmes for multimorbidity in order to define skills and competencies of case-managers and develop training curricula.

EPF attendance:
Valentina Strammiello

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The 19th European Health Forum Gastein took place on 28-30 September under the title "Demographics & Diversity in Europe. New Solutions for Health". EPF represented the patients' perspective in several sessions.

A new impetus from the Commission have marked encouraging improvements in patients' relations with institutions and organisations working on HTA both at European and international level. Let's take some time to reflect on those.

[09-10/11/2016 | EFPIA health collaboration summit](#)

Brussels

The EFPIA Health Collaboration Summit 2016 will bring together policy makers, industry and patient organisations covering a range of issues from innovation to outcome.

EPF attendance:
Nicola Bedlington

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[08-09/11/2016 | EPF conference on patient safety](#)

Brussels

The conference will provide a platform for discussion of these and other issues in depth, with speakers and contributors from a number of different viewpoints: patients, family members, healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers.

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen

[14-15/11/2016 | EMA workshop on big data](#)

London

[17-19/11/2016 | ESPACOMP 2016](#)

Lisbon

the leading conference for researchers, clinicians, policy makers and others interested in the science of medication adherence

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen



The European Commission has recently published a comprehensive report of its multi-stakeholder workshop on

This October, a new public private research initiative called PREFER, is launched to assess when and how

Biosimilar Medicinal Products that took place in June in Brussels, where EPF took an active participation. Meanwhile, the Commission also updated its Q&A guide for patients on biosimilar medicines.

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patient preferences on benefits and risks should be incorporated in decisions on medicinal products. EPF sits in the Patient Advisory Group, together with others patients organisations.

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OUR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN HUNGARY ADVANCES!



Our Capacity Building Programme in Hungary is starting two new workflows: communications and mid-term strategic reviewing.

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PATIENTS & DECISION-MAKERS GET TOGETHER IN KOSOVO TO ADDRESS PATIENTS' RIGHTS IN THE REGION



Selena Imerovic Hodzic, our Capacity Building Officer, attended the conference 'Protection of Patients' Rights: Role of Institutions and Associations / Regional experiences' from 17-18 October in Pristina, Kosovo.

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(BLOG) BLOG - PORTUGUESE PATIENT ASSOCIATIONS ASSERT THEIR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH POLICY-MAKING



About seventy Portuguese patient and public health organisations and a number of key opinion leaders personalities -including two former Portuguese Health Ministers - have signed a petition requesting more citizens' involvement in the development of health policies.

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CONTACT US

EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM

Rue du commerce 31
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

Phone : +32 (0)2 280 23 34
Email : info@eu-patient.eu
www.eu-patient.eu | eu-patient.org/blog



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