

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



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DECEMBER 2017 ISSUE

Welcome to this special December issue of the EPF newsletter.

As 2017 draws to a close, let's have a look in the rear-view mirror at our main highlights and impact. The overview is not, of course, exhaustive, but it will give you a flavour of what happened at EPF over the past twelve months.

Our diverse and growing membership is our *raison d'être*. None of this year's achievements would have been possible without our members' invaluable contribution and engagement. We express our deep gratitude to all our member organisations, old and new, for their collective support and commitment that enables EPF to be a strong and united voice for patients in Europe.

Similarly, we are grateful to our many allies and fellow stakeholders who work hard with us to advance patient-centred, equitable and sustainable health care across the Member States.

2017 also saw many new challenges. The civil society movement in Brussels is living rather troubled times, with scarcer budgets and questions from some quarters about its validity. Now, more than ever, it is important to underline and acknowledge the added-value of patient organisations as legitimate stakeholders in civil dialogue in health-related policies. The recent report commissioned by EPF highlights the enormous contribution patient organisations are making in the healthcare environment, and beyond. This report will be a core tool as we begin to think about next year, and preparing for the European Parliament elections in 2019.

The EPF Board members and Secretariat wish you a restful and happy festive break with your family and friends. We look forward to working with you again in 2018!

Enjoy the read!

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

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

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



JANUARY 2017 - OUR MEMBERS, OUR COMPASS!



Our vibrant and diversified network of members is our raison d'être and the driving force of our daily work at EPF. For this reason, in 2017 we dedicated a video to explain the special relationship EPF has with its members, and we developed our set of communications with them by introducing the EPF Breakfast Briefings.

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FEBRUARY 2017 - OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE #ACCESS2030 CAMPAIGN



On 27 February, the kick-off meeting of the EPF campaign on Access to Healthcare gathered more than 75 participants representing a wide range of health stakeholders. The opportunity to deliver some key proposals on how to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all by 2030!

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MARCH 2017 - EUPATI MOVES FORWARD UNDER EPF DIRECTION



The five-year EUPATI project funded under the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) ended in January 2017, and a "new" EUPATI programme started to move forward under the direction of EPF and a newly-formed EUPATI Management Team. Let's have a look at the achievements so far and a glance at 2018!

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APRIL 2017 - EPF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WIDER, STRONGER, LOUDER



[SEE OUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

31/1/2018 | Digital Health Conference

Berlin, Germany

EPF attendance:
Camille Bulot

11-12/01/2018 | COMPAR EU kick off meeting

Barcelona

EPF attendance:
Valentina Strammiello

18-19/01/2018 | Health & Ageing sector investment, European funds and human resources: the post 2020 perspective

Rome

EPF speaker:
Valentina Strammiello

9/01/2018 | EFGCP Medical Technology Stakeholder Alliance Working Party

Brussels

EPF attendance:
Katie Gallagher

19/01/2018 | Civil Society in the Space in the EU

Brussels

EPF attendance:
Camille Bullot

24/01/2018 | [Making Visible the Invisible on Headache Pain: sharing successful experiences across Europe](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance:
Kostas Aligiannis

On the 10th and 11th of April, EPF members gathered for the EPF Annual General Meeting in Brussels. The event was the occasion to report on our activities in 2016 and to glance at what we have planned for 2017. The meeting also saw the election of new board members and the approval of 7 new members, keeping the EPF family growing!

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MAY 2017 - EPF CALLS FOR MEANINGFUL PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IN EU HEALTH POLICY DOSSIERS



2017 saw the continuation of our engagement in crucial policy topics for patients in Europe. EPF, thanks to its broad representativeness, stood forth to voice patients' interests and called for meaningful involvement of patients as equal partners in health-related policy dossiers.

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JUNE 2017 - PATIENT ORGANISATIONS AS LEGITIMATE STAKEHOLDERS IN CIVIL DIALOGUE



2017 also saw many new challenges. The civil society movement in Brussels is living rather troubled times, with scarcer budgets and questions from some quarters about its validity. Two important initiatives, the #EU4HEALTH campaign co-led by EPF and a report commissioned by EPF underlined the enormous added-value of patient organisations and civil society

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JULY 2017 - A MEMORABLE YEAR FOR OUR YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES!



EPF believes young patients are the future of patient advocacy. This is why we strengthened our youth-related activities in 2017 with the first edition of the EPF Summer Training Course for Young Patient Advocates. In the meantime, the EPF Youth Group wrote a new page of his story, with the election of a new Board.

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SEPTEMBER 2017 - EPF PROMOTES THE PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVE TO EUROPEAN PROJECTS



In 2017, EPF carried on its active role in several EU-funded projects, advancing the involvement of patients in topics that matter to them.

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OCTOBER 2017 - EUROPEAN HEALTH PARLIAMENT: MEET HEALTHCARE'S NEW YOUNG HEROES



The third edition of the European Health Parliament (EHP), an initiative bringing together young experts in healthcare, was officially launched on the 17/10 in Brussels. The programme gives young Europeans the opportunity to present their priorities on the upcoming challenges for healthcare in Europe.

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NOVEMBER - EPF SUPPORTING PATIENT ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE



EPF continued helping patient organisations growing in 2017 with again a very fruitful year for the EPF Capacity Building Programme, with training modules in Poland and Bulgaria and the first edition of the EPF National Coalitions meeting!

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TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE**

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CONTACT US

EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM
Chaussée d'Etterbeek 180,
1040 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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