

# THE EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM

## MANIFESTO FOR THE 2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

# PATIENTS + PARTICIPATION = OUR VOTE FOR A HEALTHIER EUROPE

### PATIENTS' VIEWS MATTER

We, patients of all ages and conditions, live with our chronic disease every day and regularly use health services. We have a **unique perspective** on healthcare. We are experts on what works for us and what does not. We can therefore **guide decision-makers** on how to offer good quality care that is also cost-effective.

- ➔ **ENGAGE PATIENTS COLLECTIVELY AND PRO-ACTIVELY THROUGH PATIENT ORGANISATIONS IN POLICY DECISION-MAKING TO ENSURE THAT ALL POLICIES AND PRACTICES REFLECT PATIENTS' REAL-LIFE NEEDS, PREFERENCES AND CAPABILITIES.**

### EMPOWERED PATIENTS ARE AN ASSET TO SOCIETY

We want to be **full partners** in the management of our conditions according to our individual capacities and situation. We need to be empowered to do so. Empowerment starts with **tailored high-quality information** and **health literacy**, to enable us to make **informed choices** about our treatment and care. Empowered patients are good for health systems. We take responsibility for our care in **equal partnership** with health professionals. We also take preventive measures, seek earlier diagnosis and adhere to treatment, which can **reduce healthcare costs** in the long run.

- ➔ **ADOPT AN EU STRATEGY ON PATIENT EMPOWERMENT, INCLUDING AN ACTION PLAN ON HEALTH LITERACY AND HIGH-QUALITY INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR CARE.**

### BREAKING DOWN ACCESS BARRIERS

Access to quality healthcare is a **basic EU citizens' right**. Yet it is still not a reality for many of us – a situation made worse by the economic crisis. Access means the **availability** of treatment, but also its **affordability**. Access also means **non-discrimination**. All patients in the EU deserve equitable access to care. Breaking down health inequalities is also good for health systems. If we do not get the care we need at the right time, we may develop more severe illness, reducing our capacity to live a full and productive life and increasing health, social and economic costs. All of us deserve a chance to contribute to society.

- ➔ **SUPPORT AN EU INITIATIVE ON EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS, THROUGH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM.**

### PATIENT INVOLVEMENT = HEALTHIER EUROPE

We, patients, as healthcare users, need to be **involved in designing** more effective healthcare and in **research** to deliver new and better treatments. **Meaningful** patient involvement in research will lead to treatments that provide real value. Patient-centred, integrated healthcare will lead to better quality of life for us and our carers, and more cost-effective, equitable and sustainable health systems for all. In other words, a **healthier Europe**.

- ➔ **DEVELOP A CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR PATIENT INVOLVEMENT ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF HEALTH RESEARCH, THROUGH THE ENTIRE CYCLE OF THE INNOVATION CHAIN.**

- ➔ **ENSURE THAT PATIENTS' RIGHTS IS PART OF THE NEXT HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S PORTFOLIO.**



**I SUPPORT THIS MANIFESTO**  
[www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/EPFCampaign2014EUElections](http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/EPFCampaign2014EUElections)