

EPF Initial Planning for the EU Presidencies 2015-2017

During the Latvian EU Presidency, a key milestone will be a multi-stakeholder meeting, modelled on the Lithuanian presidency Conference on Sustainability of Health Systems that will provide the opportunity to look at the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration and Council Conclusions on sustainability of health systems and next steps for policy makers and civil society.

Our collaboration with the Luxembourg EU Presidency is still under exploration but is likely to focus on patient safety, in the context of patient empowerment, health literacy and developing patients' competencies to contribute towards patient safety and quality of care.

Under the Dutch EU Presidency (first semester 2016,) we will hold our Regional Advocacy Seminar to strengthen our links with the Dutch patient community, together with neighbouring countries patients' organisations. During the Slovakian EU Presidency (second semester 2016) we will spearhead our campaign on health inequalities and patient access that will culminate in a conference in 2017. We will also be very active in the eHealth Week in May 2016.

With regard to the Maltese EU Presidency (first semester 2017) we will collaborate closely with our member organisation, the Malta Health Network, and identify pertinent themes for the patient community there that also have repercussions for the wider EU patient movement, focussing potentially on cross-border healthcare, and patient access in small markets, following up our work in the context of the so-called Tajani Initiative http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/healthcare/competitiveness/process_on_corporate_responsibility/platform_access/index_en.htm

The end of 2017 sees the UK EU Presidency. Given the political uncertainty and possible referendum in the UK it is premature to anticipate our focus during this EU Presidency, however, as 2017 also marks the end of our IMI-funded project the European Patient Academy on Therapeutic Innovation, we may well be in the position of launching a successor project, with a continued focus on patient and public engagement, drawing on the UK's cutting edge work in this arena. Another possible area of focus is the retention and (re-)integration of patients with chronic conditions in the workplace.