

Brussels, 11 February 2015

**Invitation to the EPF Workshop on the Cross Border Healthcare Directive
21 March 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria**

Dear colleague,

We have the pleasure to invite you to the **EPF Workshop on the Cross Border Healthcare (CBHC) Directive** that will take place on **21 March 2015** in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the auspices of the European Union in the framework of its Health Programme.

This national workshop is open to registrations of **patient organisations' representatives from Bulgaria.**

With this workshop, you will learn and share experiences about how the Directive works for patients and how you can contribute a strong patient's perspective. The event will help create a core group of patient leaders in Bulgaria. This group will encourage the implementation of the Directive by cascading information to their peers and provide guidance to National Contact Points. They will also be part of an informal network that will evaluate implementation in their country and support authorities to overcome eventual bottlenecks.

General background information on the workshop

One of the main factors governing the impact of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross border healthcare – the “cross border healthcare Directive” – will be the degree to which patients are enabled to understand the legislation and benefit from it.

EPF has undertaken considerable work, in cooperation with our members, with the EU Institutions on the Directive prior to its adoption, and has subsequently produced and disseminated a toolkit explaining the Directive¹ and presented it at various events throughout the European Union in which patient leaders were involved, to raise awareness during the transposition phase. As this phase ended on 25 October 2013 and the European Commission is due to report on the implementation of the Directive by October 2015, it is now particularly timely to organise dedicated regional conferences to ‘raise the bar’ in terms of comprehensive knowledge and awareness among patient communities.

¹ <http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/Policy/Patients-Mobility/>

Who can participate?

The workshop is aimed at patient leaders from Bulgaria who have the capacity to transfer learning and knowledge from the conference to peers within their organisation and networks (such as board representatives, directors, policy and communication specialists within the organisations). A representative of the Bulgarian National Contact Point is also invited with the aim of facilitating contacts with patient groups.

In order to take full advantage of your participation at this event, please see the criteria for participation, which you will find by clicking [here](#). Simultaneous interpretation in Bulgarian will be organised but a good working knowledge of English is advised to allow for active participation and interaction.

Structure of the workshop

The workshop will last for one day. It will be conducted in English. Simultaneous interpretation will be organised in Bulgarian.

The event will be structured around thematic plenary sessions and interactive debates with the participants, as well as working group followed by a closing plenary, which will present key conclusions and proposals on the way forward. (See the [draft agenda](#)).

Registration

The registration form is available [here](#).

The deadline to register is 10 March 2015.

EPF will cover all expenses related to your participation at the workshop. This includes one night accommodation, catering and economy travel in line with our reimbursement policy ([available here](#)). Additional hotel nights can be booked at your own expense (to be mentioned in the registration form).

For more information please contact Véronique Tarasovici at veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu or +32 (0) 2 280 23 34.

We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Yours Sincerely,



EPF President, Anders Olason



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