



# **EPF Youth Strategy the “EMPATHY” project and beyond...**

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**President of the EPF Youth Group**

**EPF 2013 Annual General Meeting, Dublin 22 May 2013**



# EPF Youth Strategy

## Why a Youth Strategy?

- Adopted by the EPF 2011 AGM to enable EPF to recognise, understand and effectively represent the **needs and expectations of young patients** through their **meaningful involvement** and **empowerment**

## Rationale behind the Youth Strategy:

- **Needs and expectations of young patients** do not necessarily match those of adult patients
- **Chronic conditions have important repercussions on young people's growth** and the way they go through education, finding jobs, etc.
- **Patient organisations need to listen to young patients** and provide them with appropriate tools and avenues through which their needs and expectations can be put forward



# EPF Youth Strategy

## What are the Goals?

**GOAL 1:** Strengthening the involvement and representation of young patients in patient organisations

**GOAL 2:** Promoting young patients' rights and recognition of their needs and expectations within and beyond health policy area

**GOAL 3:** Promoting a better cooperation between young patient and adult patient advocates

**GOAL 4:** Strengthening young patient representatives' skills and self-confidence



# EPF Youth Group

- Set up in April 2011 as the **backbone** of the EPF Youth Strategy
- The Youth Group is the reference group through which needs and expectations of the young patient community are formulated and communicated to EPF
- Currently made up of **11 young patient representatives** between 15 and 25 years of age nominated by EPF members



# Youth Group Members

Name	Country	Affiliation
Andrew Zammit McKeon	Malta	IDF-Europe
Arron Gill	United Kingdom	EFFCA
Borislava Ananieva	Bulgaria	ELPA
Marek Marszalek	Poland	FPP
Marlou Schenk	Netherlands	EGAN
Marta Dimitrova	Bulgaria	NPO – Bulgaria
Martha Carabott	Malta	Malta Health Network
Simonas Stoncius	Lithuania	LPOAT



# Welcome on board to...

**Cristina Iscu Lacatusu (Romania), COPAC**



**Kaidy Muhel (Estonia), EMSP**





# Some key Achievements of the Youth Group

## 2011

- First Youth Summer Meeting (Brussels) and election of Board
- Development of Youth Strategy
- First Youth Project developed

## 2012

- Youth project (EMPATHY) successfully funded by the European Commission
- Second Annual Meeting of the Youth Group in Malta
- Contribution of the Youth Group to the EPF Strategic Planning Process

## 2013

- Implementation of EMPATHY project



**“EMPATHY: Europe  
meets Young Patients”  
Brussels, 8-11 July 2013**





# “EMPATHY: Europe meets Young Patients”

## What is EMPATHY?

“EMPATHY: Europe meets Young Patients” project will organise a **four-day seminar on 8-11 July 2013 in Brussels** for young patients, European policy-makers, and stakeholder actors in the fields of health, education, social and youth policy.

## What is the objective ?

To promote a more holistic approach to addressing young patients' needs in EU-level decision-making processes



Education and Culture DG

‘Youth in Action’ Programme



# EMPATHY

## What we will talk about?

We will draw on real stories and experiences of young patients in relation to **healthcare, education, employment** and many other areas where **young patients can be discriminated against on the grounds of chronic condition**

## What we will do?

The Seminar will be implemented as a mix of young patients and stakeholders-policy makers led activities:

- Role-plays on real life challenges young patients face
- Policy discussions on selected topics
- Simulations of press conference
- Workshops on opportunities for patients involvements
- Trainings (EU institutions and advocacy)



# EMPATHY

## Resources to be delivered

- Recommendations for policy makers on how to take into account young patients needs
- Recommendations for stakeholder groups on how to take into account young patients needs
- Recommendations for patient organisations on how to involve young patients
- Toolkit for young patient advocates on ways to make their voice heard in EU policy making



# Next milestones

- Youth Spring Meeting 22 May, Dublin (IE)
- EMPATHY Seminar 8-11 July 2013, Brussels (BE)
- Youth Summer Meeting (Bulgaria, September 2013) to discuss:
  - Follow-up to EMPATHY project
  - Development of new youth project
  - Election of new youth board
  - Identification of priorities for 2014

# ...Good memories





**We want to get bigger**

**We are still looking for new  
members**

**Nominate your Youth Representative!!**



europeanpatients'forum

**Youth Group**

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# Thank you for your attention!

