

# EPF'S WORK ON ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

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“ A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE TO  
DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE ”

# Background

- Equitable access to healthcare, for all patients across the EU at the heart of our vision and core values
- Good existing evidence base on the key socio- economic drivers and determinants of health
- **Health inequalities have not however been studied much from the perspective of patients** In some disease areas, EU wide data have been collected, but no accurate overview
- **Inequalities persist** – in terms of access to healthcare and quality of care.

# Our vision of access

- Availability + affordability of care
- our focus is on patient centred disease management as a part of the care continuum
- Specific needs of patients diagnosed with chronic conditions and their families
- Chronic diseases as a factor of health & social inequalities.
- Patient empowerment and health literacy as key components of the solution



# Work with the EU institutions



- EPF contributed to the Consultation by the European Commission on EU action to reduce health inequalities
  - Highlighted need for a strong political commitment at EU level
  - Need to focus on chronic disease management and the needs of patients
  - Need to improve data and knowledge base (patient centred indicators)
- European Parliament motion for resolution on health inequalities in the EU adopted in 2011
  - We achieved recognition that patients are a specific group vulnerable to health inequalities
  - Older patients were flagged as a priority

# Health Technology Assessment



- May 2010 Seminar with patient experts on patient involvement in Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- EPF survey with HTA agencies, patient organisations and decision makers on patient involvement
- EUnetHTA- EPF member of stakeholder forum
- EPF member of advisory board of AdoptHTA
- EUPATI project: Training for patient's representative and tools for lay patients on health technology assessment, pharmacoeconomics, pricing and reimbursement



**AdHoptHTA**  
Adopting Hospital Based  
Health Technology Assessment



**eunethta**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT



# EU Platform on access to medicines

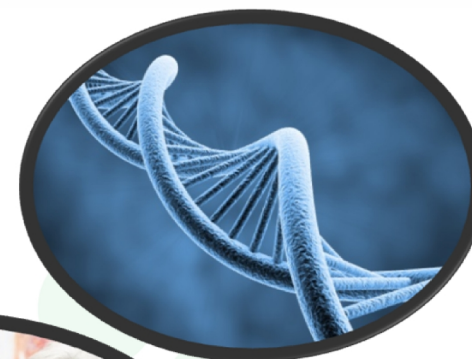


- Dedicated to enhancing the collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders
- To find common, non legislative approaches to timely and equitable access to medicines after their marketing authorisation.
- EPF was in the steering group and either us or our members were involved in various initiatives: access to biosimilars, entry agreement for innovative medicines, supply in small market, orphan products, WHO priority medicines...

# Access in all policies

Health inequalities is a cross cutting issue in our policy advocacy work:

- Health programme (2014-2020)
- Chronic disease reflection process
- Transparency directive
- Clinical Trials
- Personalised medicines
- Older patients' rights
- Health Literacy
- Information to Patients
- Patient Empowerment
- Tackling Discrimination



# Health inequalities and austerity

- Over the last few years we have collaborated on a series of event with our members from new member states on health inequalities and impact of crises and austerity



- “Health inequalities in the new Member States” Sofia, 2012
- “Health Inequalities in the ‘New’ EU Member States and Candidate Countries” Brussels June 2013
- Consensus meeting on Access and Equity for Patients” December 2013



# Sustainable Health Systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe

- **Europe 2020:** letter on mid term review with EPHA: Strong emphasis on health inequalities
- Call for guidelines to ensure civil society involvement in the **European Semester**



- **Vilnius Declaration 2013:** strong role in highlighting effects of health inequalities

*“a collective commitment to rethink how health systems operate, where patients play a role, through patient empowerment, in delivering high quality sustainable, equitable healthcare” Anders Olauson*

# EPF Campaign 2014: 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 crisis.”

“ Access means the availability of treatment, and it affordability. Access also means non-discrimination”.

“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”

# EPF Campaign 2014: breaking down access barriers (2)



- Member States should be encourage to invest in health : health inequalities are unjustifiable and costly
- Shared concerns across health community – collaborating to find solutions
- **Key ask: Support an EU initiative on equitable access to healthcare for all European citizens, through a multi-stakeholder platform**



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# Useful links

- EPF health inequalities & antidiscrimination webpages  
<http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/Policy/A-Z-list-of-topics/>
- Report on HTA survey  
<http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/Initiatives/>
- Report of EPF Seminar on HTA  
<http://www.eu-patient.eu/Documents/Library/ConferenceSeminarReports/hta-seminar-2010-brussels-report.pdf>
- EPF campaign background briefing “*breaking down access barriers*”  
<http://www.eu-patient.eu/whatwedo/EPFCampaign2014Elections/Background-papers/>

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