

EUROPEAN ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

EPF-lead multi-stakeholder initiative

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Brussels, Belgium

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

Background

Health inequalities Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria 2012

- Supported by the European Patients' Forum
- Under the patronage of the Bulgarian Minister of Health
- Dr. Andrey Kovatchev, MEP
- **162 DELEGATES**
 - Health ministers (Bulgaria, Croatia)
 - Policy-makers (Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia)
 - Patients' organizations
 - Official representatives of EU institutions
 - Members of European Parliament
- **OUTCOMES**
 - Resolution was adopted
 - Survey was conducted



FOLLOW-UP: SURVEY AMONG PATIENT LEADERS



In total **286** people completed the survey from the 15 countries

Czech Republic	2	Slovakia	37
Estonia	13	Slovenia	9
Hungary	21	Cyprus	23
Latvia	46	Bulgaria	26
Lithuania	14	Croatia	14
Malta	7	Serbia	2
Poland	3	Macedonia	53
Romania	16		

FOLLOW-UP: SURVEY AMONG PATIENT LEADERS

incite.

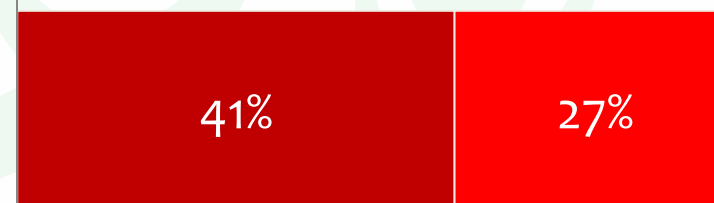


The results are striking

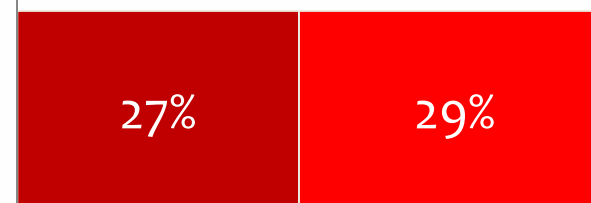
...the government is decreasing the budget for healthcare



...the burden on patients for co-payment for treatment is increasing



...the number of new drugs which enter the market is decreasing



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree

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incite.

EPF

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Patients
Forum



The results are striking

Ensuring sustainable funding of the healthcare system

81%

15%

Improving the waiting time for treatment (medicines, products...

73%

20%

Developing more screening and prevention policies

68%

25%

Making treatment (medicines, products and services) more...

66%

25%

Improving the health infrastructure (equipment and...

60%

28%

Improving the quality of the service provided by HCPs to...

59%

29%

Improving access to innovative therapies (drugs, technologies...

56%

32%

■ Very urgent

■ Fairly urgent

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What did we learn from the survey

Introducing the right of patients to receive treatment abroad at the expense of the national health insurance funds provided that the treatment is unavailable in their country

68%

25%

Implementing affordable pricing of medicines which take into account the average income of your country

66%

24%

Specially tailored programmes to meet the specific needs of different patient groups (i.e. actions tailored to specific chronic diseases)

65%

26%

Additional EU funding for low-income countries to be allocated to health systems reform

65%

24%

Will improve significantly

Will improve somewhat

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Outcomes

The economic crisis has had an impact on healthcare systems and subsequently had an impact on the lives of patients

Access to healthcare, with all its elements - hospitals, doctors, infrastructure, medicines etc., is one of the main concerns for patients and carers

New and innovative approaches to increase access and sustainability of the EU healthcare systems should be explored
For example better collaboration, exchange of best practice, quality standards, sustainable pricing etc.

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FURTHER STEPS: EU PARLIAMENT CONFERENCE



Topic: Health Inequalities in the 'new' EU Member States.
Equity of Access to Quality Healthcare. (June, 2013)

- Supported by Dr. Andrey Kovatchev MEP

- Results from the First Conference on Health Inequalities
- Results from the patients' survey
- Best practices from the EU
- The vision of the EU institutions on access to healthcare



International cooperation



VILNIUS DECLARATION – “Sustainable Health systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe



Call for Action

Ensure universal **access to high-quality, people-centred health services**

A partnership approach between all stakeholders in the health sector at national and European levels should be promoted to identify effective solutions to improve equity of access to healthcare.



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European Access Partnership



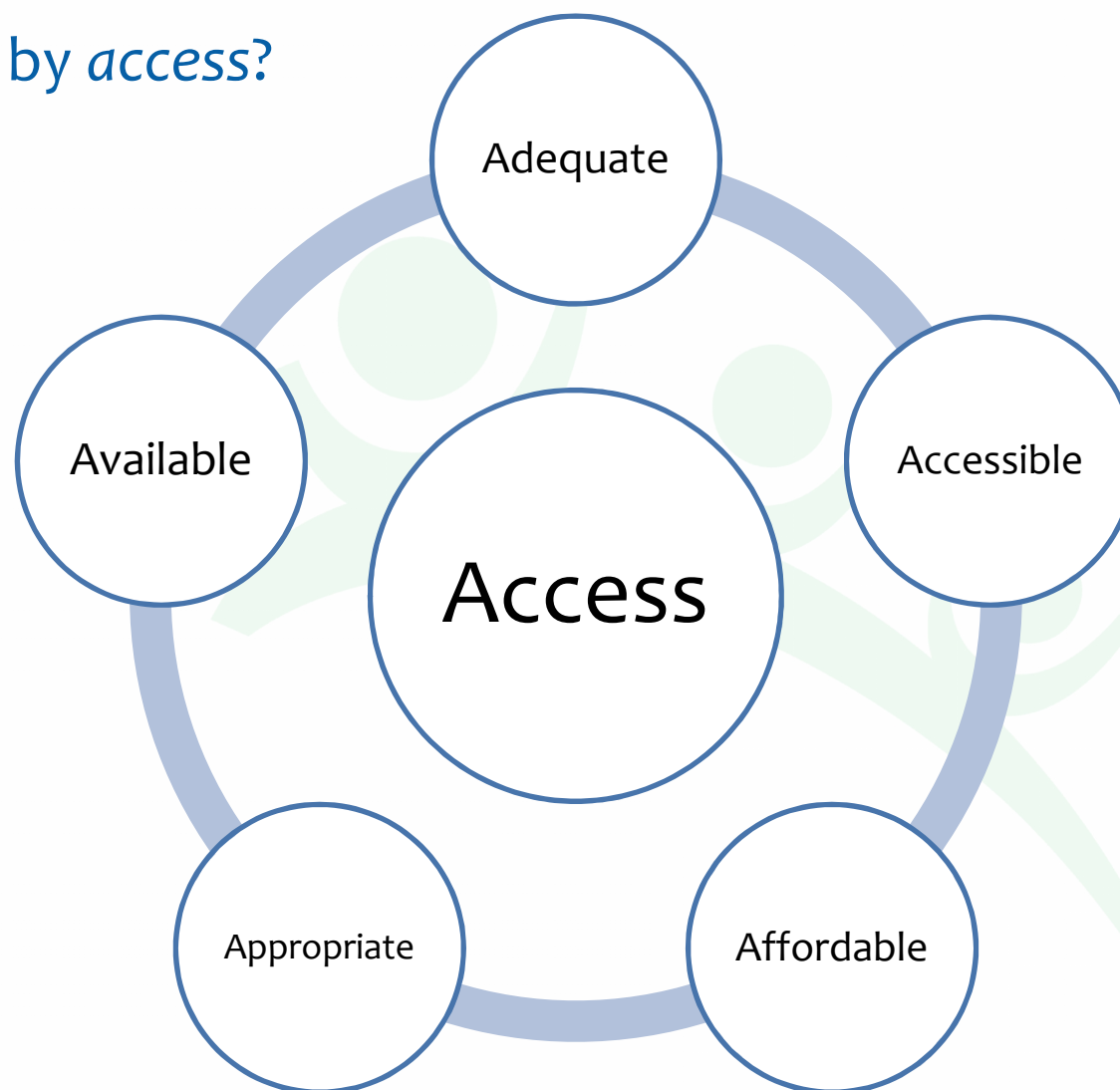
- A multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate the dialogue between the patients, European policy makers and institutions, healthcare professionals, member states and industry
- To assess barriers to quality health care provision in the EU and find solutions that will improve access to all citizens of the Union

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What is understood by *access*?



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What is understood by *access*?

- Availability: Whether services are available in the first place
- Adequacy: Whether there is an adequate and continued supply of available services
- Accessibility: Whether the services are effectively available for utilization. Access measured in terms of *utilization* is dependent on the physical accessibility and acceptability of services and not merely adequacy of supply. This can also refer to the **time** to get necessary healthcare, for example

What is understood by *access*?

- Appropriate: Services available must be relevant to the different parts of a population in terms of their health needs and material and cultural settings if the population is to 'gain access to satisfactory health outcomes'. In other words, available health care resources should meet the needs of different population groups
- Affordable: a system for financing health services so people do not suffer financial hardship when using them

European Access Partnership



Next steps

- Identify barriers and gaps in access across EU – develop a tool to measure access in EU28
- Explore innovative approaches to increasing access in Europe – e.g. fare pricing system to improve access to innovation and enhance competitive environment
- Introducing EU mechanisms for accelerating access throughout Europe and support the member states
- Support EU legislation on standards for increasing quality of healthcare and access

How can the EPF's Access group interact
with the Access Partnership initiative

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