

Brussels, 5 June 2014

Invitation to the 4th EPF Regional Conference on the Cross Border Healthcare Directive

Dear colleagues,

We have the pleasure to invite you to the **Regional conference on the Cross Border Healthcare (CBHC) Directive** that will take place on **6-8 October 2014** in Tallinn, Estonia, under the auspices of European Union in the framework of the Health Programme.

This regional conference is open to registrations of patient organisations' representatives from **Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden.**

With this conference, 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 each country. These groups 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 conference

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.

Who can participate?

The conference is aimed at patient leaders from the 5 countries who have the capacity to transfer learning and knowledge from the conference to peers within their organisation and networks (such as

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

board representatives, directors, policy and communication specialists within the organisations). Representatives of the National Contact Points of the participating countries are also invited with the aim of facilitating contacts with patient groups in their countries.

In order to take full advantage of your participation at this conference, please see the criteria for participation, which you will find by clicking [here](#). In addition, a good working knowledge of English is mandatory to allow for active participation and interaction.

Structure of the conference

The Conference will last for one and a half days. It will be conducted in English only.

The event will be structured around thematic plenary sessions and interactive debates with the audience, as well as parallel working groups 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: <http://www.eu-patient.eu/Events/Cross-Border-Healthcare-Conference-6-8-October-Tallinn-Estonia/Cross-Border-Healthcare-Conference-6-8-October-Ljubljana/>.

The deadline to register is 15 September.

EPF will cover all expenses related to your participation at the conference. This includes accommodation for up to two nights (if needed), catering and economy travel in line with our reimbursement policy ([available here](#)). Additional hotel nights can be booked at your own expense at a special conference rate (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 conference.

Yours Sincerely,



EPF President, Anders Olason