

**A
STRONG
PATIENTS'
VOICE
TO DRIVE
BETTER HEALTH
IN EUROPE**



OUR MEMBERS, THE STARTING POINT

13 patients' organisations create the European Patients' Forum (EPF). They realise they needed a strong European umbrella to represent them on common healthcare issues. They create a powerful Constitution based on representativeness, legitimacy, accountability, independence and transparency.

2003

ALLIANCE BUILDING, LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

EPF organises our first annual conference entitled "Driving better health in Europe". This is the first occasion for patient groups to build alliances and to lay the foundations for patients' advocacy on cross cutting issues.

2004

FIRST COMMITMENTS AND POLICY FOCUS

EPF organises our second annual conference entitled "Health Education and compliance". EPF engages in crucial policy areas: information to patients, empowerment of patients, patients' safety and quality of care.

2005

THE SECRETARIAT, A DEDICATED TEAM

A permanent secretariat is established in Brussels. Our first annual report documents the collective achievements and challenges of previous years.

2006

THE STRATEGIC PLAN, A SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK

EPF develops our first strategic plan to be able to grow and work effectively during the next 5 years. We put our vision of healthcare, mission, values to defend and goals into words and actions.

2007

A FIRST PROJECT, NEW CHALLENGES ON THE HORIZON

EPF leads our first EU funded project: Value+. This marks the start of EPF's involvement in European projects to gather evidence based information from patients to substantiate our policy work.

2008

OUR PATIENT MANIFESTO, HIGH VISIBILITY IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EPF reaps the benefits of the one year campaign "150 Million Reasons to Act" and our Patient Manifesto. 100 MEPs express their commitment to support EPF's mission.

2009

YOUNG PATIENTS, THE VOICE OF THE FUTURE

The 2010 EPF Regional Advocacy Seminar put the spot light on the young patients. The Youth Group is established to explore how their needs can be better recognised by patient organisations.

2010

BUILDING CAPACITY AND TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE

EPF transmits our knowledge through our Capacity Building Programme and the European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation. The aim is to reinforce patients groups' information and advocacy capacity to enable them to become effective actors in driving positive change in all issues affecting patients at both national and European level.

2011

POLICY IMPACT AND NEW TOPICS

EPF strengthens our policy impact in both EU and national health contexts, particularly through our work on cross-border healthcare and clinical trials, and extends our activity to new policy topics, such as personalised medicine and the rights of older patients.

2012

"EPF is entering an exciting new era, where we can build on past achievements and our track record with our members and allies, to engineer positive change for patients in every part of the European Union"

| Anders Olauson, EPF President,
and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Director

2013

TIME TO LEARN LESSONS AND TO LOOK AHEAD

EPF celebrates our 10th anniversary and changes our logo to demonstrate our evolution as an organisation, with an ever expanding membership and widening mandate.

EPF prepares for the the next EU programming period with our 2014-2020 Strategic Plan developed with its members.

To be continued...



WHO IS EPF?



The **European Patients' Forum** is an **umbrella organisation** that works with patients' organisations in public health and health advocacy across Europe. EPF members represent specific chronic disease groups at EU level or are national coalitions of patients.

Our vision is **high quality, patient-centred, equitable healthcare** for **all patients** throughout the European Union.

Our mission is to be the **collective patients' voice** at EU level, manifesting the **solidarity, power** and **unity** of the EU patients' movement. EPF intends to provide a **strong and united patients' voice** to put patients at the **centre** of EU health policy and programmes.

WHAT DOES EPF DO?



EPF is an **apolitical, non-profit, representative advocacy** organisation.

EPF helps empower patients' organisations through educational seminars, policy initiatives and projects.

We coordinate best practice exchanges between them at European and national levels.

EPF programmes also help to strengthen their organisational and advocacy capacity.

WHAT ARE EPF GOALS?



Five strategic goals to reach our mission:

- ➔ **EQUAL ACCESS FOR PATIENTS**
To promote equal access to best quality information and healthcare for EU patients, their carers and their families.
- ➔ **PATIENT'S INVOLVEMENT**
To ensure meaningful patient involvement in EU health-related policy-making, programmes and projects.
- ➔ **PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
To ensure a patients' perspective, including issues around human rights and quality of life, is heard in developments at EU level on health economics and health efficacy.
- ➔ **SUSTAINABLE PATIENT ORGANISATIONS**
To encourage inclusive, effective and sustainable representative patient organisations.
- ➔ **PATIENT UNITY**
To nurture and promote solidarity and unity across the EU patients' movement.

HOW TO BECOME MEMBER OF EPF?



To become an EPF member, organisations have to fulfil criteria relating to **legitimacy, representation, democracy, accountability** and **transparency**.

Organisations that do not meet the five Full Membership criteria but intend to do so in the foreseeable future can become **Provisional Members**. If they do not meet the criteria within two years, then they will be considered for **Associate Membership** status.

To be a member of EPF offers added value:

- ➔ To **influence** EU policy that will affect directly all patient groups.
- ➔ To **exchange** ideas and experiences with sister organisations throughout the EU.
- ➔ To be an active part of the **European Patients' Movement**.
- ➔ To access EPF's **events** (Annual General Meetings, training seminars...).
- ➔ To access EPF's **information tools** (monthly newsletter, policy documents, blog testimonials, e-mails updates).



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Disclaimer: The content of this leaflet reflects only the author's views and the Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.