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Issue 3 (16): 30 April, 2008

**Dear EPF members and allies,**

Welcome to the third issue of the EPF Mailing 2008. Since our last issue, our Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference on Health Literacy have taken place. Both went very well and more detailed reports are given in [section 13](#) and [section 1](#). We were of course especially proud and pleased to welcome the new Commissioner for Health, Mrs Vassiliou to our Conference and to hear her thoughts on patients' rights, partnership and taking forward health literacy in a coherent way in the framework of the EU Health Strategy "Together for Health".

The AGM elected two new members to the board, Paul Arteel from GAMIAN Europe and Panos Englezos from Thalassaemia International. EPF Vice President, Susanna Palkonen from the European Federation of Allergies and Airways Diseases and EPF Treasurer, Mike O' Donovan of the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform were re-elected for a further term of two years, as was I as EPF President. Albert Jovell, of the Spanish Patients' Forum and Christian Saout of CISS, the French Patients' Forum will continue their term for a further year. We are all very honoured by the unanimous vote of confidence given by EPF members and very aware of our responsibilities in moving forward the organisation. The debates and the sharing of ideas at the AGM gave us much "food for thought". In early June, the EPF board will have a "retreat" to reflect on upcoming challenges for the organisation in the light of DG Sanco's own reflections and wider political developments on health.

Jean Georges of Alzheimer Europe who has been a member of the EPF board since its foundation in 2003, and Vice President 2006-2007, did not re-stand for elections. Jean was thanked enormously for his extensive contribution and huge commitment to EPF in his years as board member. Jean assured fellow-members that he would be continuing to support EPF actively in Alzheimer Europe's capacity as a full member.

We were also delighted to give a very warm welcome to the following new members of EPF: European Federation of Associations of Patients with Haemochromatosis, Federation of Polish Patients, Long-term Conditions Alliance UK, Mental Health Europe, Movimento Consumatori and Thalassaemia International Federation.

We are very much looking forward to working together with them.

In addition to the governance issues, the AGM adopted unanimously the EPF/CPME joint principles and expressed great enthusiasm in working further on the Patient / Doctor relationship. See [section 9](#).

A "big" issue that we are currently advancing on is the EPF patients' manifesto which is currently being developed by our membership on the basis of a framework document drawing on our strategic plan. More news on this under [section 14](#).

We hope that you too are enjoying a busy and productive springtime.

**Warmest greetings,**

Anders Olauson, President and Nicola Bedlington, Director

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The next issue of the Internal Mailing will take place at Mid June 2008. The deadline for contributions is 8th of June.

## 1. EPF CONFERENCE ON HEALTH LITERACY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



The EPF Spring Conference 2008, a unique opportunity to address the theme of health literacy at EU level, brought together 130 patient leaders, health policy makers and health stakeholders from throughout the European Union to explore health literacy, its importance and why and how this should be taken forward as a policy priority.

Opening the conference, the new Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou said: "The patient-centered vision of healthcare today calls for greater empowerment for patients. This is an essential step if we are to achieve improved quality of care and health outcomes leading to a better quality of life. Patients' empowerment and health information should be seen as an objective that can only be successfully achieved through a series of partnerships, involving all the relevant stakeholders. There is a need for co-ordinated actions involving other policy areas, such as education, social and economic policies".



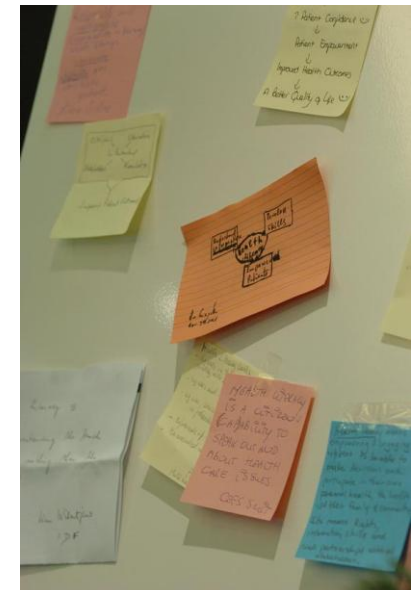
The main conclusions and recommendations emerging from the two days' discussions have just been finalised and circulated ([see attached](#)).

These recommendations focus upon:

- The need for further research
- The importance of setting up an EU level Health Literacy Network
- Wider Distribution of Health Information and Information to Patients that meets core quality criteria
- Patient and Health Professional Education and productive dialogue between Patients and Healthcare Providers
- The meaningful involvement of patients

**Collectively, these recommendations should be used to strengthen the 'health literacy' component of the EU Health Strategy – 'Together for Health'. The European Patients' Forum is committed to contributing actively in taking forward these recommendations in partnership with the European Commission and other stakeholders.**

A detailed report will be produced and widely circulated shortly. You can also download presentations from the Conference in the next couple of weeks.



## 2. PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM

### Pharmaceutical Forum Steering Group, 3 April 2008

Nicola Bedlington represented EPF at the Pharmaceutical Forum where a major emphasis was placed on reviewing current work of the three working groups on information to patients, pricing and reimbursement and relative effectiveness; preparing the High Level Ministerial Forum on 3 October and particularly the French Presidency's input to this event; and looking to the future in terms of how the work of the Forum will be taken forward beyond 2008, given also that 2009 will be a year of transition with a new Commission and new Parliament. Two specific and major points were highlighted by EPF, first, the need to involve all concerned stakeholders effectively in post Forum initiatives and second, to ensure that alongside developments in relation to the legislative proposal on information to patients, it is absolutely crucial to move forward on a comprehensive information to patients strategy. Whilst recognising that the latter is beyond the remit of the Forum per se, the High Level Ministerial Forum should acknowledge the need to maintain the political momentum on information to patients and the importance of a future strategy at EU level.

For further information, please contact [Nicola Bedlington](#).

### ITP developments

The Information to Patients Working Group Meeting took place on 15 March 2008. Susanna Palkonen represented EPF and EPF Policy Officer, Roxana Radulescu also attended.

The meeting touched briefly upon the legal proposal on information to patients and it was stressed again that the focus of the working group was to finalise a number of key products that have been developed within the ITP working group. The discussions therefore focussed on a report and strategy document on access to information in specific healthcare settings; a document on the use and application of the quality principles on information to patients; public private partnerships in relation to information to patients; ethical guidance and code of practice linked to public private partnerships and a document outlining key elements to be

included in any comprehensive information to patients package. The latter has been prepared by EPF and we have contributed as far as possible to the other documents. Our current work is focussed on working with the Commission and a subgroup including AIM, CPME, EMEA, EATG, PGEU, on future strategies beyond the Pharmaceutical Forum on information to patients. This is being divided into two parts: one part links to the specific remit of the information to patients working group and how to maximise the impact of the work achieved over the three years; the other part explores the ideas that have been raised within the working group and are, in some senses "by products", and how to develop these into a comprehensive over-arching information to patients strategy for the future.

For more information, please contact [Susanna Palkonen or Nicola Bedlington](#).

### **Pricing and Reimbursement Working Group**

The Working Group on Pricing and Reimbursement of Pharmaceuticals held its 11th meeting on 17 and 18 April, in Brussels.

The first day presentations were given on trade and distribution of pharmaceuticals, explaining the role of each distributor from manufacturer to (pre)wholesaler, wholesaler, retailer and finally to the patient, and the challenges related to that. AIM (Association Internationale de la Mutualité) gave an introduction to the distance selling/ mail order pharmacies, with examples from Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland and potential benefits and risks from a safety, accessibility, and cost-efficiency perspective.

The second day the group discussed the document "Improving access to orphan medicines for all affected citizens" drafted by several members of the WG including EURORDIS (the European Organisation for Rare Diseases, an EPF member). "Orphan medicines" are medicinal products intended for diagnosis, prevention or treatment of life-threatening or very serious diseases or disorders that are rare. They are called "orphan" because there is little interest under normal market conditions in developing and marketing products intended for only a small number of patients. (See [EURORDIS](#) for further information).

The paper identified the main bottlenecks orphan medicines meet on their way to all affected EU citizens:

- In spite of increased incentives and flexibility of market authorization procedures, the development of orphan medicines remains a risky enterprise, due to low number of potential patients, absence of patient registers and lack of national centres of expertise.
- Assessing the clinical value of orphan medicines has proven to be a difficult task, due to rarity of patients, severity and heterogeneity of the diseases, scarcity of clinical experts.
- Pricing and reimbursement negotiations of orphan medicines are an area of increased sensitivity with almost all MS, because of high prices, low but uncertain volumes and the often life-long need for treatment.
- Health professionals have limited awareness and skills with diagnosing and treating orphan diseases.

The WG recommended some specific activities:

- Establish an early dialogue between pricing and reimbursement authorities and companies that are developing orphan medicines.
- Set up a sustained collaboration between MS and European authorities on the scientific assessment of the clinical value of orphan medicines.
- Promote an initial uptake of orphan medicines through conditional pricing and reimbursement decisions.
- Building EU-level awareness and expertise on orphan diseases (setting up standardized patient registers at EU level, networks of centres of expertise in MS and a cross-border European Reference Network for Rare Diseases).

The next meeting will take place in the 2nd half of June.

For further information and copies of presentations, please contact [Christoph Thalheim/Roxana Radulescu](#).

### **Relative Effectiveness Working Group**

The Working Group on Relative Effectiveness (RE) of the Pharmaceutical Forum held a meeting in Brussels on 13 February.

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the progress made in the subgroups and to adopt draft principles developed by the work package 1, and to agree the preparation of the final report of the Pharmaceutical Forum and scope of the recommendations to the Forum.

There were further discussions on the principles of good practice for RE including on some that had been agreed in previous meetings and on the number of principles to have; the services of the EC will work on the modifications discussed. Most importantly there was some thinking on the concrete application of the principles by Member States in Relative Effectiveness assessments systems. Participants discussed on potential users, beneficiaries and context of applications; the outcome of the discussion will be included in the final report of the Pharmaceutical Forum.

With regard to the survey on how Member States carry out RE assessments, the representative from Austria presented the preliminary results: not all interlocutors had been identified yet; interviews had been carried out in half of the MS and some needed to be completed. Not all MS had assessed the drugs selected for the study; in some cases there was an issue of access to information on the assessments. The survey will be completed in June.

The last topic addressed was the potential creation of a European network on RE. There is consensus about a network representing a platform for exchange of experiences and best practices amongst MS. Less clear is the role such network would have in assessing and evaluating how RE assessments are done in the MS and how this should happen in practice. A questionnaire will be sent out to different networks to gather information on existing or planned networks on relative effectiveness.

The next meeting will take place in early June.

For more information, please contact [Albert Jovell or Nicola Bedlington](#).



### 3. PATIENT SAFETY

#### **Meeting of the Commission's Working Group on Patient Safety**

The Working Group on Patient Safety, which advises the Commission High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care, met on 13 March in Brussels. Roxana Radulescu attended this meeting on behalf of EPF.

First, the group received a feed-back on the WHO International Classification for Patient Safety. Currently, there is no internationally agreed classification system for patient safety terminology; different approaches have been developed, for different purposes. The WHO initiative aims to harmonise and group various existing patient safety concepts and definitions.

Furthermore, an update was given on the EUNetPas project (European Union for Patient Safety) and on the kick-off meeting in Utrecht, on 28-29 February. A patient safety conference under the French EU Presidency will be held on 22 and 23 September in Paris.

A representative from DG Enterprise introduced the Commission's plan to revise the current EU legislation in the area of pharmacovigilance. In the following discussions, the concern was raised that the proposal had the potential to cause confusion at the national level. The discussion also looked at how data obtained through different reporting systems were used.

For example, in some countries there were different reporting systems to cover different types of incidents with different implications. The concern was expressed that it may not be in the interest of health professionals in some countries to report medication errors, for fear of negative repercussions for them or colleagues. It was replied that there would be no legal obligations at the EU level for health professionals to report medication errors and that the organisation of reporting systems within an individual Member State was a matter for that Member State.

Concerns were also raised about the role of the pharmaceutical industry. The Commission representative assured members that the proposal would strengthen the responsibilities placed upon companies to report on clinical trials, both positive and negative experiences. Based on the response to the public consultation it is

now the intention that patient reporting to the competent authority for medicines in each Member State, and not to the manufacturer, should be required.

EPF [has responded to the European Commission's consultation on pharmacovigilance](#) from a patients' perspective.

### **The Commission patient safety Initiative for 2008 – Open Consultation**

On 25 March the European Commission launched an [Open Consultation on patient safety in the European Union](#) to help in the development of Commission's proposal on patient safety.

The consultation is under the form of a questionnaire that should take about 20 minutes to be completed. It includes the key issues identified by Member States and stakeholder organisations (including EPF) which are members of the Patient Safety Working Group. These issues are highlighted in the recommendation on patient safety that was put forward by this group to the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care.

The Commission's proposal will combine two previously separate but related initiatives – the one on general systemic patient safety issues and the one on healthcare-associated infections - into one Communication to the Council of the European Union, with one Council Recommendation. The intention is to have them adopted by the Commission until the end of 2008.

The two primary objectives of the Commission's general patient safety proposal will be:

- to support Member States in their efforts to minimise harm to patients from adverse events in their health systems, through appropriate policies and actions to improve safety and quality of care.
- to improve EU citizens' confidence that they will receive sufficient and comprehensible information about safety, available redress mechanisms, including healthcare providers in their own country and in other Member States.

EPF will respond to the consultation and is strongly encouraging all its members to respond as well. Contributions to the open consultation on patient safety should be completed on-line by **20 May**.

For further information, please contact [Roxana Radulescu](#).

#### 4. INFORMATION TO PATIENTS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

EPF submitted [its response to the Commission Consultation on a Legislative Proposal on Information to Patients](#), on the deadline of 7th April, following extensive consultation with the members. The International Alliance of Patients Organisations also gave comments and supported the EPF response.

## 5. COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON COUNTERFEITING

EPF will be working closely with the International Alliance of Patients Organisations (IAPO) which is preparing a response to the Commission's consultation on counterfeiting, given IAPO's particular experience in this sphere, also through the WHO initiative IMPACT International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force.

A draft response will be circulated to the EPF board in the next few days. The Commission's deadline for response is **9th May 2008**. Should you wish to include any specific comments, please [contact the secretariat](#).

## 6. PATIENTS' RIGHTS DAY, 18 APRIL 2008

Mike O'Donovan, EPF Treasurer, gave a presentation at the Conference "European Patients' Rights: a European and national challenge" held on 18 April in Gorizia, Slovenia. He highlighted the importance of institutionalizing the day and reiterated that a pre-requisite for patients' rights is a meaningful involvement of representative patients organizations.

The debate looked at the application of the European Charter of Patients' Rights to the cross-border patients. While the EU is working towards improving access of European patients in other Member State, the challenge now to make sure that this goes along with a similar improvement of the rights of all patients in receiving quality care in their home country.

The conference was attended by more than 120 participants – civil society organizations, national and European public institutions, health care professionals, representatives of hospitals, health industry, from about 20 European countries.

For further information, please contact [Mike O'Donovan](#) or visit [Active Citizenship Network](#) website.

## 7. IRISH FEDERATION ON PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

Nicola Bedlington participate in a meeting convened by the Irish Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries on 11 March 2008 to explore with representatives of the Irish Patients' Community the added value of setting up a IFPI Patients' Think Tank, replicating the EFPIA Patients Think-Tank at EU level. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to talk to some of the key patient group leaders in Ireland and the possibility of an Irish Coalition of Patient organisations joining EPF in the future. Nicola also participated in a meeting of IPPOSI (Irish Platform of Patient Organisations, Science and Industry) on Information to Patients.

For more information, please contact [Nicola Bedlington](#).

## 8. CENTRE FOR HEALTH, ETHICS AND SOCIETY (CHES)

A first meeting of the newly formed CHES took place at the European Policy Centre on 25 March. Nicola Bedlington who is also a member of the CHES steering group represented EPF at this event which addressed the serious issue of health professionals' migration flows, and EU Member States needs particularly in relation to demographic ageing, and how the outflow of health professionals is managed in the countries where they originate (with examples from South Africa).

For more information on this meeting and on CHES generally, please visit the newly launched [CHES website](#).

## 9. JOINT PRINCIPLES BETWEEN EPF AND CPME

EPF's Annual General Meeting adopted unanimously the Joint Principles of cooperation between EPF and CPME, the European Standing Committee of Doctors ([see attached document](#)). EPF enjoys a good cooperation with CPME already as fellow members of various high level groups and projects; however the purpose of this document is to help both organisations work in concert on the new patient – doctor relationship. Some very tangible examples of this and recommendations came out of our Spring Conference, where CPME President Michael Wilks gave a powerful address.

More news on developments will be available in future issues of the Mailing.



## 10. HSO MEETING

On 15th April 2008, the European Patients' Forum welcomed the Swedish Disability Federation in its office. This organisation is a national umbrella organisation which works together with 43 national disability and patient organisations with all together about 500 000 individual members. The Swedish Disability Federation is to be involved and influence political decision makers and the general public in various fields such as: medical care, support services, education and training, labour market policy, etc.

During their visit, the representatives of the Swedish Disability Federation received a general presentation of the European Patients' Forum and its ongoing works at EU level and expressed an interest in future cooperation.

More information on the Swedish Disability Federation can be found on their website: <http://www.hso.se/start.asp?sida=298>

## 11. 6TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PACKAGING AND LABELLING, 27TH MARCH 2008

Nicola Bedlington gave a presentation at a European Conference, in Amsterdam, which explored the role of packaging and labelling in relation to patients' adherence to medicines. Discussion also took place on the role of packaging and labelling in addressing counterfeit medicines.

For a copy of the presentations, please contact [stephaniebthencourt@vibeevents.com](mailto:stephaniebthencourt@vibeevents.com)

## 12. EUROCARERS MEETING ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LONG-TERM CARE

On 15 April Eurocarers organized a meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group on Carers, hosted and chaired by Irish MEP Kathy Sinnott. Roxana Radulescu attended the meeting on behalf of EPF.

The main topic for discussion was the [2008 Joint Report on Social Inclusion and Social Protection](#) which addresses issues in relation to health and long-term care provision and which are particularly pertinent for carers.

The discussion looked at the need for Member States to involve in an Open Method of Coordination mechanism to recognize the carers' work at national level. Another key point coming out from the discussions was the need to use more the structural funds in relation to carers' work and, at political level, the importance of continuity under EU presidencies. It was mentioned, for example, that elderly people abuse is a topic that will be taken forward by the Czech, French and Swedish EU presidency.

EPF is supporting the work of Eurocarers to raise awareness on and get recognition of the value of carers' and families' work in relation to patients' journey.

The next meeting will focus on carers and mental health.

For further information, please contact [Roxana Radulescu](#).

### 13. EPF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EPF Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th of April bringing together EPF's member organisations. They received a presentation of the Annual report 2007, financial report from the Treasurer, Audit report and also of the Work Plan for 2008. These documents were unanimously agreed at the meeting and will shortly be available on EPF's website.

The AGM elected two new members to the board, Paul Arteel from GAMIAN Europe and Panos Englezos from Thalassaemia International. EPF President, Anders Olauson from EURORDIS, EPF Vice President, Susanna Palkonen from the European Federation of Allergies and Airways Diseases and EPF Treasurer, Mike O' Donovan of the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform were re-elected for a further term of two years. Albert Jovell, of the Spanish Patients' Forum and Christian Saout of CISS, the French Patients' Forum will continue their term for a further year.

EPF welcomed new member organisations: European Federation of Associations of Patients with Haemochromatosis, Federation of Polish Patients, Long-term Conditions Alliance, Mental Health Europe, Movimento Consumatori and Thalassaemia International Federation.

This also was the opportunity to present key projects on which EPF is currently working (Value+, EUNetPas) and a project led by Agrenska and Funka Nu, "The Child and Adolescent Patient Project".

For further information, please contact [EPF Secretariat](#).

## 14. EPF MANIFESTO

The EPF board has just approved the preliminary draft version of the EPF Manifesto “150 million reasons to act” and this has been distributed to the EPF membership for their contributions, comments and feedback. A final version will be ready at the beginning of June and EPF will be holding a launch meeting in the European Parliament shortly after that.

The purpose of the EPF Manifesto is to outline 12 policy priorities that EPF, on behalf of its wide patients' constituency, would like current and prospective MEPs and their national counterparts to incorporate into their campaign work in the European Parliament elections in 2009 and indeed beyond.

For a draft copy of the Manifesto, please contact [the secretariat](#). We would welcome very much the thoughts and reflections of other stakeholders.

## 15. WORK IN PROGRESS: VALUE + PROJECT - PROMOTING PATIENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN EU SUPPORTED HEALTH-RELATED PROJECTS

VALUE+ has entered its third month of life and the project has now a logo as you can see and its [own page in EPF's website](#). This is the link to the website that will be active from the beginning of May.

### State of the art

In order to strongly promote patient involvement in EU policies, programmes and projects Value+ needs first to assess the situation: is there any patient involvement? How does it happen? What are the barriers? And the benefits?

During this first phase all partners in the project started researching projects being implemented concurrently with Value+ that have some patient involvement and aspire to make it as meaningful as possible. We have looked at the Public Health Programme; the Structural Funds and the Seventh Framework Programme and have identified approximately 45 projects. The next step will be contacting the organizations responsible for these projects, get more information and discuss possibilities for cooperation so that we can see how they make patient involvement happen.

Another aspect of the research we are conducting covers a longer time span and broader package of programmes. The focus is the same – projects with patient involvement – but in this case our time frame is the years 1998-2008 and there are more programmes searched like for instance Grundtvig and eTen. This preliminary information collection is going to be finalized by the end of June.

To help us with this research we would like to make an appeal to all EPF's members to inform us of any EU project with patient involvement implemented within their network/platform. We will shortly address you a more detailed request for this purpose and we count on your collaboration so as to be able to collect as much evidence as possible.

If you wish to receive more information, please do not hesitate to contact [Liuska Sanna](#).

## 16. NEW TELEPHONE CONTACT DETAILS

EPF has installed new telephone and fax numbers:



**NEW** EPF Tel: + 32 (0) 2 280 23 34

**NEW** EPF Fax: +32 (0) 2 231 14 47

Full contact details are available on our website:

[http://www.eu-patient.eu/about\\_us/contact\\_us.htm](http://www.eu-patient.eu/about_us/contact_us.htm)

## 17. EU CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

EPF's Secretariat monitors on an ongoing basis Calls for Proposals launched by the European Commission. After the Call 2008 of the Public Health Programme we advertised in the last IM issue, there are a few calls from the DG Research Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) that could be of interest to our readers. The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: **Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities**.

Within the objective **Cooperation** there are two Calls at the moment:

### 1. FP7 Cooperation Work Programme: Theme 8 - Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

Call identifier and title: FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD, ERA-NET / ERA-NET PLUS Call 2008

Deadline: 12 August 2008

Indicative overall budget: EUR 29.3 million

Funding schemes: Coordination and Support Actions

This call will cover two types of actions: proposals of a horizontal nature, i.e. cutting across several themes in the Cooperation Specific Programme or Parts in Capacities, or not directly linked to Cooperation Themes (EUR 16.8 million); and proposals for Conferences/Support Actions (EUR 0.7 million).

The theme of main interest for our area of work is "Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities" and within that theme the activity "Strategic Actions". Some of the topics funded within this activity are:

- Emerging needs: small, highly-innovative, collaborative research projects will be supported
- Measures to support dissemination of research: actions targeted at particular groups and the general public, including workshops and conferences for researchers to discuss with policy-makers and other stakeholders, and the diffusion of results using various media.



- Measures to support dissemination of research and exploitation of research results
- Impact Assessment studies: studies to assess the impact of EU research in social sciences and humanities on policy and on science.

More information can be found by following this link and specifically at the Information Package:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL\\_ID=87](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=87)

## **2. FP7 Cooperation Work Programme: Theme 3 – Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)**

Call identifier and title: ICT-2007.8.0 FET Open

Deadline: 31 December 2008. It is planned that the call will subsequently be extended beyond this date.

Indicative overall budget: 65 M€ plus 59 M€ added from the 2008 budget.

With regard to the topics called, the challenge addressed by this call is “Future and emerging technologies”, e.g. identification of new directions with potential for becoming the foundations of the information and communication technologies and innovations of tomorrow. Since the supported topics are not predefined by the Work Programme but identified by the researchers themselves, FET-Open accommodates the exploration of new research horizons. Once established as credible and valid, a research topic may gradually grow into a wider field, supported by a dedicated research initiative or be taken over by mainstream programme activities in ICT. A project in FET-Open should contribute to the realization of a clear long term vision in the ICT domain and the project's objectives must address a key challenge for the realization of this vision.

There are two types of funding schemes:

- Collaborative Projects (CP): Support to research projects carried out by consortia with participants from different countries, aiming at developing new knowledge, new technology, products,

demonstration activities or common resources for research. The type of projects to be funded is “small or medium-scale focused research actions” (STREP).

- Coordination and support actions (CSA): Support to activities aimed at coordinating or supporting research activities and policies (networking, exchanges, coordination of funded projects, trans-national access to research infrastructures, studies, conferences, etc). Only “coordination actions” (CA) will be funded.

For the Call Fiche and Work Programme click the following link and go the Information Package:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL\\_ID=12](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=12)

Within the objective **Capacities** there is one call in the area “**Support for the coherent development of research policies**”.

Call identifier and title: FP7-COH-2007-2.2-OMC-NET

Closure date: 26 June 2008

Indicative budget: EUR 4.5 million

Funding schemes: Coordination and support action (coordinating)

Within this area the type of activity funded is “Support to bottom up policy coordination initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions”. These initiatives should primarily involve national and regional authorities being directly involved in and carrying institutional responsibility for research policy preparation and formulation, but can in addition include, where appropriate, other stakeholders such as industry, other research actors, European organizations or civil society organizations. The initiatives may cover activities such as peer review of national and regional policies, exchange of experience and personnel, networking activities, joint evaluations and impact assessments, development of quantitative comparisons of the effectiveness of national/regional/EU policies, identification of good practice,

formulation of policy recommendations, design and implementation of transferability scenarios or the development and implementation of joint initiatives, large-scale dissemination of results.

For the Call Fiche and Work Programme click the following link and go the Information Package:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL\\_ID=76](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=76)

The eligibility for sending applications should be carefully checked and might require direct contact with the responsible DGs since it is not always clear in the calls documents.

If you wish to have more information, please contact [Liuska Sanna](#).

## 18. DIARY

Tue, May 6 -- Wed, May 7	<b>E- Health Conference: E-health without frontiers</b> Place: Porto Roz, Slovenia Attendance: Nicola Bedlington, Roxana Radulescu
Fri, May 9 -- Sat, May 24	<b>U.S. Meetings</b> Attendance: Anders Olauson
Tue, May 13	<b>PGEU meeting in EP</b> How can we improve adherence to medicines in Europe? Hosted by MEP Mojca Drnar Murko Place: Brussels Attendance: Nicola Bedlington
Thu, May 15	<b>Presentation on Clinical Trials Meeting</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Nicola Bedlington
Thu, May 15 -- Fri, May 16	<b>First EUNetPaS WP2 Meeting</b> Place: Athens Attendance: Roxana Radulescu
Tue, May 27	<b>ITP working group</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Nicola Bedlington
Wed, May 28	<b>EFPIA Patients Think Tank</b> Place: Brussels, Attendance: Anders Olauson, Nicola Bedlington
Fri, May 30	<b>European Health Policy Forum</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Anders Olauson, Nicola Bedlington
Mon, Jun 2 -- Tue, Jun 3	<b>Council of Europe, European Conference</b> "The ever-growing challenge of medical liability: what national and European responses?" Place: Brussels Attendance: Roxana Radulescu
Mon, Jun 2	<b>Steering Group meeting of VALUE +</b> Place: Brussels
Mon, Jun 2	<b>GIRP (Full Line Wholesalers) Annual General Meeting</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Nicola Bedlington
Thu, Jun 5 -- Fri, Jun 6	<b>Slovenian Presidency conference</b> "Ready for the future: Defining European healthcare through innovation and safety" Place: Brussels Attendance: Roxana Radulescu

Fri, Jun 6 -- Sat, Jun 7	<b>Board meeting</b> Place: Brussels
Wed, Jun 11	<b>AEGSP Conference</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Anders Olauson
Sun, Jun 15 -- Mon, Jun 16	<b>EU Health Systems Working Group</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Nicola Bedlington
Wed, Jun 25	<b>High Level Advisory Board on FP7</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Anders Olauson
Wed, Jun 25 -- Thu, Jun 26	<b>Value+ steering group meeting</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Steering group
Mon, Sep 15	<b>EPF Board meeting</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: EPF Board
Mon, Sep 15	<b>EPF meeting with funders</b> Place: Brussels
Tue, Sep 16	<b>EPF and PGUE joint board meeting</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: EPF Board
Fri, Oct 3	<b>High Level Pharmaceutical Forum</b> Place: Brussels Attendance: Anders Olauson, Nicola Bedlington