

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patient's voice, to drive better health in Europe



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// JULY ISSUE

A WORD FROM EPF PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR

We are delighted to share with you some exciting developments regarding one of EPF's core priorities: addressing health inequalities from the perspective of patients.

In collaboration with NPO, our member organisation from Bulgaria, EPF organised a second conference on health inequalities in the European Parliament on 26 June – with some significant outcomes. Dr Andrey Kovatchev, MEP, hosting the meeting, will lead in the setting up of an interest group of MEPs to address health inequalities and to promote equal access. The meeting also laid the foundations for the establishment of a wider EU partnership on patient access and equity.

Please [click here](#) to read the full press release. There will be more information in September's issue of the newsletter.



This issue was also core to the [Informal European Union Council of Health Ministers](#) in early July under the Lithuanian Presidency. Ministers discussed the future of EU health systems, with a focus on sustainability. Commissioner Borg underlined that "Improvement of healthcare systems does not mean cutting services, it means reorganizing in a cost effective way". From EPF's perspective, this means embracing a patient-centred approach to health system reform, and driving patient empowerment and health literacy.

July marked Croatia's entry into the EU, and we are looking very much forward to our forthcoming [Regional Advocacy Seminar](#) that will take place in Zagreb this autumn, bringing together patient leaders from Croatia and the EU Candidate countries to explore further our cooperation.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. Our next issue will be devoted entirely to our recent seminar EMPATHY that brought young patients from many countries to Brussels to work together and with other health stakeholders, on the issues that really matter to young patients throughout Europe

We wish you a lovely summer.

Anders Olauson, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Director

COMPROMISE REACHED ON PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE PATIENTS' PERSPECTIVE AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVEL?

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/09/2013 | ["Best expertise vs conflicts of interests: Striking the right balance"](#)

London, UK

Our President Anders Olauson will attend this workshop at the European Medicines Agency. The event is intended to elicit the



The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament (IMCO) adopted on 10 July the final text of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement in this review.

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EPF Regional Advocacy Seminar will take place on 28-29 October 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia. This year's overarching theme is "How to strengthen the patients' perspective at EU and national level?".

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A MODEL FOR PATIENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN HTA



EPF plans to establish a Model for Patients' Involvement in Health Technology Assessment (HTA). The research we carried out last year in this area clearly showed the need for a methodology to effectively involve patients and we will base our reflection on the 'Value +' model developed and validated through our Value + project.

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JOINT ACTION ON CHRONIC DISEASES APPROVED



We are happy to announce that the European Commission has approved in principle a proposal for a Joint Action on Chronic Diseases, CHRODIS-JA. EPF will participate as an associate partner in this JA. We will now enter a negotiation phase and hope it will be ready to start in late 2013 or early 2014.

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EPF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME: FIRST ASSESSMENT



EUPATI PROJECT PUBLISHES DRAFT TRAINING PROGRAMME SYLLABUS



views and concerns from academia, patient organisations, Committee representatives, NGOs, the pharmaceutical industry and the scientific media on the Agency's current conflicts of interests policy.

EPF speaker:
Anders Olason

17/09/2013 | [Board and funders meeting](#)

Brussels, Belgium

Review of 2012 EPF activities and overview of the future work that EPF will undertake

EPF attendance:
EPF Secretariat & Board

19/09/2013 | [EFPIA Patients' Think Tank September Meeting](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This quarterly event is the occasion for Patients' organisations and the pharmaceutical industry to have a dialogue on EU policy issues in the area of health and innovative medical research.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

26 - 29/09/2013 | [3rd Annual Meeting of the Youth Group](#)

Sofia, Bulgaria

Follow-up of the EMPATHY seminar

EPF attendance:
Walter Atzori, Valentina Strammiello

28 & 29/10/2013 | [Save the Date! EPF 6th Regional Advocacy Seminar](#)

Zagreb, Croatia

The event is open to patients' organisations from Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey. This year EPF will provide tools to the participants to advocate effectively at European and National level.

21/11/2013 | [Save the date! EPF Patient evidence workshop](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The event is open to EPF member organisations and focuses on shaping EPF contributions to EU-level actions in the Patient Safety area, emphasizing on patient involvement in patient safety.

LOOK AT EPF NEWS !

As the EPF Capacity Building Programme (2012-2014) concludes its first year of operation, EPF takes stock of the progress with initial assessment of the outcomes. National-level patient organisations from Romania completed the programme's first phase which aimed at developing a strategic plan and undertaking a comprehensive organisational capacity assessment.

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EUROPE MEN'S HEALTH WEEK FOCUSED ON PRIMARY CARE



The Men's Health Week was held in June 2013, like each year during the week that ends with Father's Day. This time the European Men's Health Forum (EMHF), a member of EPF, put the focus on primary care and re-launched its 'Your Prostate' service at a roundtable on 11 June 2013.

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EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PATIENTS EMPOWERMENT



Our Senior Policy Adviser Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous attended the European Network for Patients Empowerment - ENOPE meeting on 25-26 June 2013. The purpose of this two-days meeting was to finalise the ENOPE statutes and clarify the

The European Patient Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI) consortium, led by EPF, has published the first version of the syllabus for its high-level certificate training course. This is one of the three areas of training and education that were explored at the EUPATI Rome conference in April, alongside online education tools library and National Platforms.

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EFPIA PATIENTS' JUNE THINK TANK



The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) Patients' Think Tank meeting took place on 19 June 2013 in Brussels. This quarterly event is the occasion for Patients' organisations and the pharmaceutical industry to have a dialogue on EU policy issues in the area of health and innovative medical research.

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GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR



On 2 July, EPF co-hosted a meeting in Brussels that presented the Guiding Principles of Good Governance in the Pharmaceutical Sector. We were very active in the Commission Working Group that developed these Guiding Principles and they were endorsed by

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FIND MORE ABOUT EPF POLICY WORK



WHO ARE EPF MEMBERS ?



membership conditions, as well as plan for the 2014 Careum /ENOPE conference.

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SMART OPEN SERVICES FOR EUROPEAN PATIENTS



Liuska Sanna, EPF Senior programme Manager, attended the epSOS project workshop on 27-28 June 2013 in Lisbon, Portugal. The scope was to exchange ideas about how to intensify the promotion and use of epSOS services to make it operational.

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HOW MUCH DATA PROTECTION DOES A PATIENT GET?



Our Board Member Robert Johnstone, FRSA, attended the 4th annual Symposium of the Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) on 20 June 2013. This year's highlight was on «Good Governance in (Clinical) Research with Human Data and Tissue».

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our board last November.

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PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH



The 'Independent Expert Group on the Future of European Public Health Research' issued a report on the future of public health research. Our President Anders Olauson has attended the consultation workshop on 30-31 January 2013 and had the opportunity to provide EPF's input to the discussions.

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WELCOME DIANA!



Diana Weidlich joined EPF as a Project Assistant in July 2013. She holds a BSc in Economics from the Corvinus University of Budapest and completed a Master's degree in European Public Policy at the University College London.

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TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE**

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