

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



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// FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR SECRETARY GENERAL

A warm welcome to the February issue of the EPF Newsletter.

Patient safety and quality of care have been one of our core priority areas for EPF since our establishment and form a key component of our policy work in all areas. We start from the principle that patients have a fundamental right to expect safe care, and also have a legitimate role, both individually and collectively, in developing and implementing policies for patient safety and quality, and evaluating them from the end-user's perspective.

Throughout 2015 we will focus on raising awareness and disseminating information and advocacy tools on patient safety. This will include patients' rights, complaints and redress, and will build on the outcomes of the European Commission's mapping of patients' rights in all member states. We will therefore have four special sections in our newsletter on this topic: hand hygiene in this February issue; healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in the June issue; prevention of medication errors in August; and highlight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in November at the occasion of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day.

This month we have our first dossier about hand hygiene. If not properly implemented, it can affect the lives of millions of people. Patients as individuals or in organisations have a great role to play there to prevent the harm arising from insufficient healthcare. Jolanta Bilinska is a Patient Safety Champion and she explains her work to encourage people to clean hands properly to prevent diseases. In this issue you will also read about our first mini-workshop organised this year in Croatia and our Capacity Building Programme's installation in Cyprus. We also put the spotlight on two of our members: the European Cleft Organisation and the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform.

It is finally our pleasure to welcome Valentina Stylianou from Cyprus who will be supporting our communication and campaign work until the end of the summer.

Warmest greetings,

Anders Olauson, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Olauson'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Bedlington'.



PATIENT SAFETY FOCUS

HAS YOUR DOCTOR WASHED HIS HANDS BEFORE TOUCHING YOU?



Patient Safety will be the focus in four issues of our newsletter this year. We want to raise awareness among our members on the importance of this topic which, if not properly addressed, can affect the lives of millions of people. We would also like to encourage patients and carers, both as individuals and through their organisations to play an advocacy role to highlight the importance of preventing avoidable harm associated to healthcare. This month, we focus on hand hygiene.

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"SAVE LIVES, CLEAN YOUR HANDS"



To illustrate this month's focus on patient safety, we have asked Jolanta Bilinska who is a Patient Safety Champion, to share on our blog why hand hygiene is so important for patients' safety. She explains there her work to encourage people to clean hands properly to prevent diseases and even provide a few tips for health professionals and patients' organisations.

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CROSSING THE BORDERS FOR HEALTHCARE: FIRST STOP IN CROATIA



Building on the success of the Regional Conferences on cross-border healthcare organised in 2013-2014, EPF decided to organise a series of mini-workshops in the countries that were not targeted by the regional events. Our first stop was Zagreb, on

EPF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME SPEEDS UP IN CYPRUS



EPF went to Cyprus on 17 January 2015 to facilitate a strategic planning workshop with our member, the Pancyprian Federation of Patients Associations and Friends. This activity took place within our Capacity Building Programme (CBP) as Cyprus, after an

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR TRAINERS ON FUNDRAISING IN ROMANIA

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/3/2015 | [Solutions For Life sciences - Inaugural event and cocktail reception](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The event will bring stakeholders from the pharma and device fields together. The focus will be on "A common policy vision for the pharma and device field?"

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

4-8/3/2015 | [European Congress of Radiology \(ECR\)](#)

Vienna, Austria

The European Congress of Radiology (ECR) is the annual meeting of the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and EPF will present the perspective of patients there.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

12-13/3/2015 | [PaSQ Coordination Meeting](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This event is the final coordination meeting of the project "Patient Safety and Quality of Care" or "PaSQ" Joint Action (JA) where EPF is a partner.

EPF attendance:
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous

16/3/2015 | [Mini-workshop on Cross-Border Healthcare](#)

Madrid, Spain

This workshop will help to raise awareness about the Cross-Border Healthcare (CBHC) Directive and patients' rights enshrined within this legislation for Spanish and Portuguese patients' organisations.

EPF speaker:
Camille Bullot

17/3/2015 | [Spanish Patients' Forum 10th anniversary](#)

Madrid, Spain

Celebration of the Spanish Patients' Forum 10th anniversary in cooperation with EPF: looking at the achievements and challenges ahead.

27 January 2015.

ad-hoc request by our member, was the fifth country to join our Programme in 2014 after Bulgaria, Hungaria, Romania and Slovakia.

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MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DISCOVER WHO IS THE EUROPEAN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PLATFORM ON OUR BLOG!



Our members are our compass. That is why we have decided to honour them on our blog by featuring one of them each month. This time, we interviewed Claudiu Berbece, Communication Coordinator at the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP), who provides an overview of his organisation in five short answers

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EUROPEAN GUIDELINES ON EARLY CLEFT CARE ADOPTED THIS FEBRUARY



A 2009 survey for UNICEF showed that nearly 40% of parents of children born with clefts in Bulgaria were advised to leave their baby in an institution. These worrying figures urged the European Cleft Organisation (ECO) to undertake major steps to look for European solutions, as no national protocol exists in certain countries in this area. They were successful as European guidelines on the early care of babies were adopted on 7 February 2015.

[READ MORE »](#)

ONE YEAR OF EU COLLABORATION ON CHRONIC DISEASES

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

19/3/2015 | [Mini-workshop on Cross-Border Healthcare](#)

Warsaw, Poland

This workshop will help to raise awareness about the Cross-Border Healthcare (CBHC) Directive and patients' rights enshrined within this legislation for Polish Patients' Organisations.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

19/3/2015 | [EU Health Policy Forum](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This meeting will be the opportunity for DG SANTE to present a new format for the Health Policy Forum which brings together 52 umbrella organisations representing European stakeholders in the fields of public health and healthcare, including EPF.

EPF attendance:
Anders Olason

21/3/2015 | [Mini-workshop on Cross-Border Healthcare](#)

Sofia, Bulgaria

This workshop will help to raise awareness about the Cross-Border Healthcare (CBHC) Directive and patients' rights enshrined within this legislation for Bulgarian Patients' Organisations.

EPF speaker:
Camille Bullot

23/3/2015 | [Health Technology Assessment Network meeting](#)

Brussels, Belgium

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together member states representative to discuss Health Technology Assessment (HTA) cooperation and developments in Europe. EPF is an observer at this meeting, alongside EURORDIS and representatives from other stakeholders.

EPF attendance:
Nicola Bedlington

24/3/2015 | [EFPIA Think Tank meeting](#)

Brussels, Belgium

EFPIA's Think-Tank serves as a forum for both Efpia members and European patients' organisations.

EPF attendance:



Policy makers and experts from across the EU met in Brussels on 19 February 2015 to discuss progress made in the Joint Action on Chronic Diseases and Promoting Healthy Ageing across the Life Cycle (JA-CHRODIS) launched a year ago. The February event brought together the full JA-CHRODIS consortium, involving representatives of 63 organisations, in their first General Assembly.

[READ MORE »](#)

Nicola Bedlington

26/3/2015 | [Patient MedTech Dialogue](#)

Brussels, Belgium

This bi-annual event provides a constructive platform of exchange between patients' organisations and the MedTech industry.

EPF attendance:
Nicola Bedlington

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

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