

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



//APRIL 2017 ISSUE

Welcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter.

Following a very intense and productive **Annual General Meeting**, we are delighted to inform you that EPF members have elected a **new Board** and approved the applications of **7 new patient organisations!** The EPF family now counts 74 members, representing an ever wider and stronger patient movement!

Access to healthcare and universal coverage is a central issue to patients in Europe, our **campaign #Access2030** to raise awareness on the challenges faced by patients in this regard. You can now add your voice to our call to European and national policy makers by signing our open and **online petition!** Your support really counts!

During 2016, EPF ran a **survey** among patients to gather their experience of the barriers and inequalities of **access** to healthcare across the European Union and across conditions. The report depicts a very alarming situation, with huge discrepancies between Member States. The results will help to underpin EPF's advocacy work on access and guide our recommendations for our policy work.

In this issue, we have some interesting reads on policy, with the adoption of two **Regulations** legislating **medical devices** and **in vitro diagnostic medical devices**, paving the way for safer and more controlled devices in the EU; and the setting up of the **European Solidarity Corps**, offering volunteering and work placement opportunities to young Europeans.

A short update on the **European Health Forum Gastein**, which is all set for its 20th anniversary, focusing on "Health in All Politics – A Better Future for Europe".

One of our major programmes, **EUPATI**, is crossing oceans with a new partnership in **Brazil**, advancing patient expertise at the global level! Here in Europe, the **EPF Capacity Building Programme** is growing and has just started a new cycle in **Poland**, supporting the empowerment of local patient organisations.

At the occasion of the **World Health Day**, our EPF Youth Group Intern, Matthew, shares a very powerful testimony on **depression** and why it matters for future generations of patient advocates.

This month, our **Blog** features a call for support to our member **Mental Health Europe**, which is teaming up for the coming Brussels 20k run, to raise awareness of their "Each of Us" campaign!

Finally, we are very happy to welcome **three new colleagues** to the EPF Secretariat in Brussels. Please meet Elena Balestra, Membership and Capacity Building Officer; Lyudmil Ninov, Project Officer and Kostas Aligiannis, Junior Policy Officer!

Enjoy the read!

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General



EPF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
WIDER, STRONGER, LOUDER

SIGN OUR PETITION AND ADD
YOUR VOICE TO OUR CALL FOR
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE!

[SEE OUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE
PAGE](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



On the 10th and 11th of April, EPF members gathered for the EPF Annual General Meeting in Brussels. The event was the occasion to report on our activities in 2016 and to glance at what we have planned for 2017. The meeting also saw the election of new board members and the approval of 7 new members, keeping the EPF family growing!

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We at EPF are determined to drive action and improvement in access to healthcare. In order to show European and national policy-makers that we all care about Universal Health Coverage, we want to gather as many signatures as possible for our petition calling decision-makers to commit for Universal Access to Healthcare!

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In December 2016, EPF published the report on its access to healthcare patient survey conducted earlier that year. Depicting a very alarming situation, the survey results fuel EPF's policy and advocacy work on access to healthcare and guide our 2017 Campaign on Universal Health Coverage.

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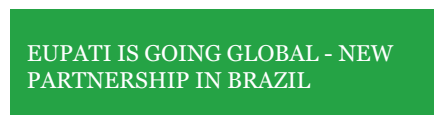


On 5 April, the Regulation on Medical Devices and the Regulation on In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices were adopted by the European Parliament. Both legislations pave avenues towards safer and more traceable devices, but miss an important opportunity to ensure meaningful patient involvement.

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The European Health Forum Gastein started the preparatory work of the 20th anniversary edition of its annual event. Under the motto 'Health in All Politics – A Better Future for Europe', the October gathering will aim to take this conceptual proposal to the political level by building



The European Patients' Academy (EUPATI) continues its steady and sensible growth with a new partnership with patient organisations and academia in Brazil, rolling out the expert training course in the South American giant.

[02/05/2017 | EFGCP-EFPIA Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Clinical Trial Results](#)

Brussels

After an introductory session on updating the audience the following sessions will consist of introductory presentations and pre-prepared, structured discussions with the audience. In the feedback process the participants will receive an opportunity to make comments on all sections of the proposed EU Commission Guideline. The results will be provided to the Commission by EFGCP.

EPF speaker:
Kaisa Immonen

[05/05/2017 | DG GROW Stakeholder Event on Biosimilars](#)

Brussels

The Forum will focus on the Patient Choice of Treatment, how to shift from 'patient compliance' to 'treatment compliance'.

EPF attendance:
Kaisa Immonen

[08/05/2017 | EU Cloud in Health Council and EPF Workshop](#)

Brussels

The Forum will focus on the Patient Choice of Treatment, how to shift from 'patient compliance' to 'treatment compliance'.

EPF attendance:
Katie Gallagher

[10-12/05/2017 | eHealth Week 2017](#)

Malta

The overarching theme of eHealth Week 2017 is Data for Health: the key to personalised sustainable care.

EPF speaker:
Nicola Bedlington

[24/05/2017 | Towards better data quality in hospitals](#)

Brussels

One-day workshop dedicated to measuring and improving data quality in hospitals.

EPF attendance:
Katie Gallagher

bridges between different policy areas.

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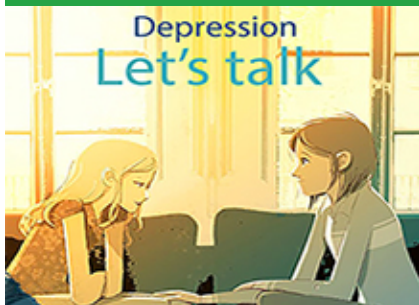
EPF LAUNCHES ITS FIRST CAPACITY-BUILDING MODULE IN POLAND!



On Thursday 30 March, EPF launched its first capacity-building module in Poland. Over the next six months, 18 patient organisations will follow an intense training module designed to strengthen their capacities and foster a collaborative culture between patient organisations and relevant stakeholders.

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DEPRESSION - IN AND OUT OF A DARK TUNNEL



Depression is the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide. Lack of support for people with mental disorders prevent many from accessing the treatment they need to live healthy, productive lives. Read here the testimony from Matthew, our EPF Youth Group Intern, on why depression is also a matter of importance for the young generation. #LetsTalk

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(BLOG) RUNNING THE STREETS FOR A GOOD CAUSE - MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

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SAY HELLO TO OUR THREE NEW COLLEAGUES!



In the last few weeks, three new colleagues joined the secretariat in Brussels, adding their experience and expertise to our policy, projects and membership related work!

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(BLOG) EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS: GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EUROPE'S PATIENTS!



Announced by the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker in his annual address before the European Parliament in Autumn 2016, the European Solidarity Corps aims to offer volunteering and work placement opportunities to young people around Europe. The European Patients' Forum is ready to support this flagship initiative, with the provision that it becomes a beacon for inclusion and equity.

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On May 28th, Mental Health Europe (MHE) will bring together a team for the Brussels 20 KM to raise awareness about mental health issues and support its European anti-stigma campaign Each of Us.

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A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

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