

# European Patients' Forum Newsletter

## A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



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**W**elcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter!

Just a few days before the official presentation of our campaign on **Access to Healthcare** in the European Parliament! We are delighted to share with you some further details on our campaign's kick-off meeting on the 27th of February, offering the opportunity to explore and discuss the 5 areas of actions of this important campaign for patients. #Access2030

After careful consultation with our members, we published our **position paper on eHealth** some weeks ago. Based on our long-standing participation in eHealth-related EU projects and our members' experience, the paper encapsulates EPF's vision and objectives for eHealth, calling for fostering patient-centred development of eHealth, with equity of access, patient safety, and quality of care as key pillars.

After more than three years, the EU Joint Action on Chronic Conditions and Healthy Ageing in the Life Cycle (**CHRODIS**) is reaching its end! The final conference of this exciting initiative will take place in Brussels on the 27th and 28th of February and will discuss the implementation of the project's outputs into concrete EU and national policies. EPF has been a proud partner of CHRODIS since the beginning, so stay tuned for further information on the follow up of the JA!

In lights of the current debates at the European Parliament on the financing of NGOs, EPF is issuing a key statement calling for the proper recognition of **added-value of patients and public health organisations**. The document reaffirms our strong belief that NGOs, including patient organisations, make a unique contribution to the public health debate, and that this should be recognised and resourced appropriately. EPF will monitor the discussions at the EU level with other stakeholders so the outstanding added-value of patient organisations is duly acknowledged by policy makers.

Our member, Mental Health Europe organised a roundtable event earlier this month to discuss the importance of a **positive mental health for a healthy and active ageing population**. An EPF representative attended the meeting and reports here on key highlights and recommendations.

Yolita Pavlova from the **EPF Youth Group**, shares with us her experience in working as a volunteer in **addictions**-related environments and how a holistic approach of the care model is crucial to fight the traumatising impact addiction can have on patients, carers, and family members.

We are happy to share some stories from our members on our **Blog**. This month, the spotlight is on the European Parkinson Disease Alliance, on the occasion of the world **Parkinson day**!

Finally, a short message to say goodbye to Walter Atzori, our Director of Programmes and Operations. A long-standing member of the Secretariat, Walter is leaving for pastures new and we wish him all the very best in his new endeavours, we'll certainly miss him in the Brussels' office!

Enjoy the read!

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



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**EPF CAMPAIGN ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS - KICK-OFF MEETING 27/02**



The kick-off meeting of the EPF Access Campaign is fast approaching! A few days before the event, it is time to share some details of the agenda with you.

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**JA CHRODIS FINAL CONFERENCE - NEW INITIATIVE COMING UP!**



The final conference of the EU Joint Action on Chronic Diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life-cycle (CHRODIS) will take place on 27 and 28 February in Brussels. The event will mark the end of a three-year journey involving a consortium of 71 partners from 25 Member States, under the leadership of the Spanish Health Institute Carlos III.

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**MENTAL HEALTH A KEY FACTOR TO ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING**

**SOLUTIONS CAN ENSURE EHEALTH BRINGS BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS**



Over the last few years, eHealth has been an increasing policy priority for EPF. In our recently published position paper, we underline the need to foster patient-centred development of eHealth, with equity of access, patient safety, and quality of care as key pillars.

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**EPF CALLS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE ADDED-VALUE OF PATIENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANISATIONS**



The launch of an own-initiative report entitled "Budgetary Control of Financing NGOs from the EU Budget" by MEP Markus Pieper (EPP, Germany) at the end of 2015 prompted the re-opening of discussions on the appropriateness and legitimacy of EU funding for NGOs.

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**(BLOG) ADDICTIONS - A MULTI-LEVEL MODEL FOR EFFICIENT TREATMENT**

**PAGE**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**27-28/02/2017** | [JA CHRODIS Final Conference](#)

**Brussels**

Presentations of joint actions results

*EPF speaker:*

*Nicola Bedlington*

**27-02/02/2017** | [EPF Campaign on Access Kick-Off Meeting](#)

**Brussels**

Official presentation of the campaign in the European Parliament

*EPF speaker:*

*EPF Secretariat*

**04-05/03/2017** | [EPF Youth Group](#)

**Milan, Italy**

Official presentation of the campaign in the European Parliament

*EPF speaker:*

*EPF Secretariat*

**08/03/2017** | [EPSA Annual Reception](#)

**Brussels**

European Pharmaceutical Students Association annual meeting

*EPF attendance:*

*Kaisa Immonen*

**14/03/2017** | [EMA PCWP](#)

**Brussels**

European Medicines Agency Patients and Consumers Working Party Meeting

*EPF attendance:*

*Kaisa Immonen*



Mental Health Europe, an EPF member, organised a roundtable event in the European Parliament on the 7th of February to discuss the importance of a positive mental health in the context of active and healthy ageing. In a society where life expectancy is rising, ageing should be seen as an opportunity.

Addictions are unique and devastating diseases: they affect the body, the mind and the spirit of a person. Understanding the multifaceted impact they have is a critical step towards an effective treatment. EPF Youth Group member, Yolita Pavlova shares some of her experience as a volunteer in addiction prevention.

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(BLOG) INTERNATIONAL PARKINSON'S COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER



Each year, Parkinson's organisations and individuals across the world observe 11 April as World Parkinson's Day. This year's World Parkinson's Day is a landmark anniversary, as the date marks 200 years since Parkinson's was recognised as a health condition.

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