Welcome to the first 2018 issue of the EPF newsletter.

In December, we closed our Access to Healthcare campaign, with a high-level roundtable in the European Parliament. We received strong political support from the Commissioner for Health, Mr Andriukaitis, and champion MEPs for the Roadmap to Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030.

2018 will be the year of the EU budget. The negotiation of the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework is set to dominate the discourse. Cuts will be made, but will the EU keep investing in health? We attended the Conference on the Future of EU Finances and sum up the current state of play.

New year, new project! Our January started with the kick-off of COMPAR-EU, a 5-year project on self-management interventions in chronic diseases. EPF is a partner of the consortium and will lead on including the perspective of patients in the outcome of the project.

The next edition of the Summer Training Course for Young Patient Advocates will take place in July in Vienna. It will focus on anti-discrimination and stigma and applications are welcome until 1 March.

In September 2017, we concluded the fourth module of our Capacity Building Programme in Romania. Read about how 20 Romanian organisations refined their strategic plans, developed their communication strategies and reached great results.

In our blog, our member EUFAMI walks us through their art exhibition on better mental health. The exhibition celebrates EUFAMI’s 25th anniversary bringing together 25 artists from all over Europe and explores the concept of “Home” as a safe place for everyone. Read more on how art does a wonderful job in supporting their advocacy work towards ‘deinstitutionalisation’ of mental health care, bringing people out of care facilities and hospices and back within the family and their larger community.

Also in the blog, Tracy Held from the European Men’s Health Forum shares the launch of their Guide on Working with Cancer for men. Read more about why a guide for men in the workplace is needed and why it is a really good signal.

Finally, some team news from EPF’s Secretariat. Enjoy the reading!

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General
patients still face many barriers to access healthcare in the EU. In December 2017, we organised a high-level policy roundtable to present the conclusions and outcomes of our Campaign on Access, including the Roadmap to Achieve Universal Health Coverage for All by 2030.

**EPF newsletter**

**05/02/2018 | PACT Partners’ Assembly**

**Brussels**

**EPF speaker**

Nicola Bedlington

**07/02/2018 | WHO Health Systems Foresight Group**

**Copenhagen, Denmark**

**EPF speaker**

Nicola Bedlington

**12-14/02/2018 | Chrodis+ Meeting**

**Treviso, Italy**

**EPF attendance**

Lyudmil Ninov

**13/02/2018 | Policy Meeting on Quality of Care**

**Brussels**

**EPF attendance**

Kaisa Immonen

**20/02/2018 | European Health Parliament - Plenary Session**

**Brussels**

**EPF attendance:**

Valentina Strammiello

**20/02/2018 | SDG Watch Europe Annual Assembly**

**Brussels**

**EPF attendance:**

Katie Gallagher

**5/12/2017 | IEEE Summit on Technology for Health: Transforming Healthcare and Wellbeing**

**Brussels**

**EPF attendance:**

Lyudmil Ninov
In November, the European Men’s Health Forum launched a unique guide to support men staying or returning to work after a cancer diagnosis. The guide answers all the questions that working men whether employed, self-employed or freelance have when cancer strikes.

EPF started 2018 with a new team member in the Comms team. We send Laurent our best wishes for his future, and we welcome Letizia, our new Communications Manager!

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