



europeanpatients'forum

“ A STRONG  
PATIENTS' VOICE  
TO DRIVE BETTER  
HEALTH IN EUROPE ”



## WHO IS EPF?

The **European Patients' Forum**, more widely known as **EPF**, is a non-profit and independent non-governmental organisation based in Brussels, Belgium. It was set up in 2003 to become the strong and united **collective patients' voice** to put patients at the centre of EU healthcare policy and programmes.

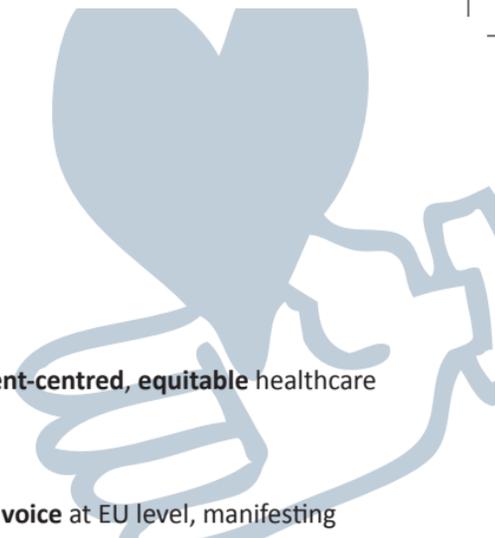
EPF is the **umbrella organisation** of pan-European and national patient

organisations active in the field of European public health and health advocacy. Through our strong advocacy activities, we strive for **patient-centred** and **equitable access** to **high-quality healthcare** for all citizens throughout the EU. EPF facilitates exchange of good practices on patients' rights, equitable access to treatment and care, and health-related quality of life between patient organisations at the European level and at Member State level.



## EPF MISSION STATEMENT

- **VISION /** Our vision for the future is **high-quality, patient-centred, equitable** healthcare throughout the European Union.
- **MISSION /** Our mission is to be **the collective patients' voice** at EU level, manifesting the **solidarity, power** and **unity** of the EU patients' movement, and to provide a **strong and united patients' voice** to put patients at the **centre** of EU health policy and programmes.



Equitable  
Independent Inclusive  
Empowering Patients Holistic Transparent  
Patient-Centred Non-discriminatory Consultative

## EPF MEMBERSHIP

EPF currently has **55 members** that are **pan-European patients' organisations** and **national platforms of patient organisations**.

To become an EPF full member, organisations have to fulfil criteria relating to **legitimacy, representation, democracy, accountability** and **transparency**.

Organisations that do not meet the five Full Membership criteria but intend to do so in the foreseeable future will become **Provisional Members**. If they do not meet the criteria within two years, then they will be considered as **Associate Members**.

**To be a member of EPF offers added value:**

- To **influence** EU policy that will affect directly all patient groups
- To **exchange** ideas, good practices and experiences with sister organisations throughout the European Union
- To be an active part of the **European Patients' Movement**
- To access EPF's **events** (Annual General Meetings, training seminars...)
- To access EPF's **information tools** (monthly e-newsletter, policy documents, blog testimonials, e-mails updates)



## EPF'S WORK

EPF has both a **proactive** and a **reactive** role. We act as a catalyst and consultative partner for positive change in EU healthcare systems and as a watchdog that closely monitors EU policy and legislative initiatives.

### Our five strategic goals:

#### 1. EQUAL ACCESS FOR PATIENTS

To promote equal access to best quality information and healthcare for EU patients, their carers and their families

#### 2. PATIENT'S INVOLVEMENT

To ensure meaningful patient involvement

in EU health-related policy-making, programmes and projects

#### 3. PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

To ensure a patients' perspective, including issues around human rights and quality of life, is heard in developments at EU level on health economics and health efficacy

#### 4. SUSTAINABLE PATIENT ORGANISATIONS

To encourage inclusive, effective and sustainable representative patient organisations

#### 5. PATIENT UNITY

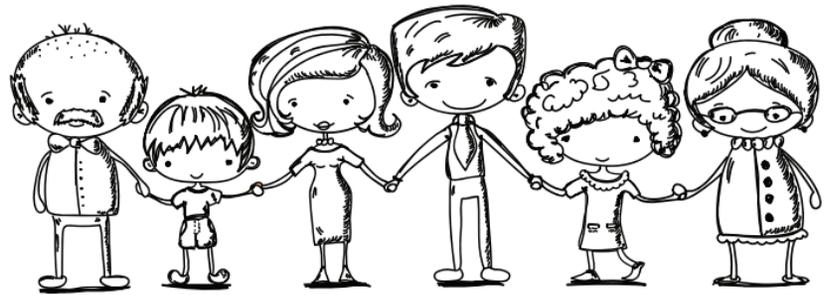
To nurture and promote solidarity and unity across the EU patients' movement



EPF fosters the **empowerment** and **involvement** of patients, both as a core value and an essential element of sustainable health systems that deliver high-quality, patient-centred chronic disease management. Promoting **health literacy** is a key strategy to equip patients with the knowledge and skills needed to take an

**active role** in managing their health and healthcare.

EPF receives financial support from a broad range of public and private sources in accordance with our code of ethics and funding framework on **transparency** and **independence**.





## CONTACT

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This leaflet arises from the EPF 2012 Work Programme, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme.

Disclaimer: The content of this leaflet reflects only the author's views and the Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.