

Report from:

Consensus Meeting
Access and Equity for Patients

Prepared by:

Tomasz Szelański
General director
Federation of Polish Patients

Editing team:

Hanna Milczarek Projects Co-ordinator FPP

Karolina Paciorek Communication Specialist, FPP

Warszawa, December 3rd, 2013.

Introduction

The Consensus Meeting, Access and Equity for Patients organized by Federation of Polish Patients took place in Warsaw on the 3rd of December at the prestigious premises of Prymasowski Palace.

The event is a continuation of the first conference in Sofia, Bulgaria and is organized in collaboration of three patients' organisation by the Federation of Polish Patients (FPP) with the collaboration of the European Patients' Forum (EPF). Reducing health inequalities is crucial for the overall health and wealth of society, and one of the key priorities of the EU Health Strategy, "Together for Health". Patients with chronic diseases form a distinct constituency with particular needs. While there are health inequalities between – and within – every region of the EU, there is a *gap* in health between the old and new EU Member States, and a number of common problems and unmet needs of patients from the region.

It is a part of a broader, concerted strategy to address health inequalities as experienced by patients with chronic diseases. The event aims to outline the commonalities and differences, to minimize the gap among EU Member States in access to healthcare in the regions. The event will highlight the positive role of collaboration between countries and within and between patients and stakeholder groups, as well as best practices regarding the active role of patients.

Another one key component of reducing health inequalities is implementation of Cross Border Healthcare Directive will be discussed as well in additional session.

The objectives of this meeting:

- To review briefly the diverse activities taking place on access and equity and explore how these could be brought together more coherently
- To obtain a clear understanding of some of the challenges and opportunities in Poland regarding access and equity issues
- To explore how a Partnership on Access and Equity for Patients
- To launch the EPF European Parliament Campaign in Poland and obtain the commitment of key players there, through multi-stakeholder collaboration
- To home in on the scope and potential of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross Border Healthcare on addressing access and equity issues, to mark the deadline for transposition of the Directive in the EU member states (25 October 2013)

Plan to link our campaign for the EU elections

This activity is continuation of previous meetings during European Health Forum Gastein and Patients' Meeting in Brussels. It is to create the possibilities to implement their findings on the Polish ground. All aspects mentioned above have been included in EPF Manifesto for EU elections 2014 which were officially presented in Polish version to increase awareness amongst Polish policy makers patients and other stakeholders.

Meeting Agenda

Prymasowski Palace, 13/15 Senatorska Street, Warsaw, Tuesday, 3rd December, 2013

09:00 - 09:15

Welcome and introduction

- Tomasz Latos, Chairman of Health Commission of the Polish Parliament
- Tomasz Szelaḡowski, General Director of FPP, EPF's Treasurer

09:15 -09:45

Setting the scene

- Stanimir Hasardzhiev, Chairperson of the Bulgarian National Patients' Organization/ EPF Board member

09:45 -10:30

“Access and Equity: Understanding the commitment of the key players at European level”

- Andrey Kovatchev, Member of the European Parliament

“EU Perspectives”

- Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director of EPF

10:30 – 11:00

COFFE BREAK

11:00 -12:30

Patients Rights' on Cross Border Healthcare – help or hindrance to access and equity?

- Employers: Robert Mołdach, expert of Pracodawcy RP
- Pharmacists: Jerzy łażowski Polish Pharmacists Chamber
- Payers: Dorota Fal, Polish Insurance Chamber
- Nicola Belington, EPF Executive director

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH

13:30 – 13:40

Statement from the Polish Parliament

- Prof. Barbara Czaplicka, Member of Polish Parliament,

13:40 -15:00

Statements from Polish stakeholders, panel discussion and audience debate

- Health Professionals: Konstanty Radziwiłł CPME
- Industry: Krzysztof Wojciechowski, INFARMA
- Hospitals Managers: Peter Balik, Institut of Health Policy

15:00 -15:30 **The reality and perspectives in Poland – where a multi- stakeholder approach can make the difference**

- Report presentation, Robert Mołdach, expert of Pracodawcy RP,
- Tomasz Szelański, General Director of FPP, EPF Treasurer

15:30 - 16:00 **Access to healthcare in the EU - the Polish example**

- Artur Carvalho, Unit D2, DG Health & Consumers, European Commission

16:00 – 16:30 **Translating the EPF Election Campaign in Poland**

- Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director, EPF
- Hanna Milczarek, Projects Co-ordinator of the Polish Patients Federation, member of EPF Policy Advisory Group

16:30 - **Conclusions and next steps**

- Nicola Bedlington, Executive Director, EPF
- Stanisław Maćkowiak, President of Federation of Polish Patients

The Meeting

The scene was set by Member of European Parliament – Dr. Andrey Kovatchev, Executive Director of European Patients' Forum – Nicola Bedlington and Chairperson of the Bulgarian National Patients' organization and EPG member – Stanimir Hasardzhijev.

Dr. Kovatchev informed the public about an important initiative taken by him and a group of other MEPs, which aims establishing of an informal group comprising MEPs from numerous member states and dealing with problem of inequalities in health in EU. Interest to participate in the activities of this group was also expressed by Prof. Jerzy Buzek, who declared his involvement as Polish MEP.

Stanimir Hasardzhijev shed light on the outcome of previous meetings, whereas the models of access to health care services developed by converged countries could be transferred in to the emerging countries of EU. He stressed importance and necessity of establishing a professional and official body within the structures of EU closely dealing with the subject of inequalities in health. As an example of these inequalities he has mentioned all the problems similar for the countries from CEE region – low reimbursement level, administrative burden, underdeveloped health infrastructure, lack of access to innovative therapies and unfortunately – many others.

Nicola Bedlington presented EPF's historical and present initiatives regarding equal access to health care system for patients all over Europe. She highlighted work of EPF to the benefit of patients and entire health system in EU as well as importance of involvement of patients' organizations in the decision making process of EU institutions dealing with health as such.

- After these presentations the first panel started, chaired by Tomasz Szelański (FPP). The panelists representing employers (Mr. Robert Mołdach, Pracodawcy RP), pharmacists (Jerzy Łazowski, Polish Pharmacists Chamber), payers (Dorota Fał, Polish Insurance Chamber) and patients organizations from all Europe (Nicola Bedlington, EPF) discussed about Cross Border Healthcare Directive and its importance and impact on access to innovative treatment for "new" countries in EU.

All panelists stressed out that the CBH Directive which came in to force as of October 25th 2013 in Poland is a step forward to breaking the barriers in health inequalities. How to make it happen and what the time horizon it would be – this question has been left open for further discussions and reforms which need to take place in the healthcare systems of the new 15 member states including Poland. What was very important – both employers and payers are open for cooperation with the patients organization on creating common solutions for this problem.

- After lunch break, the participants of the conference had occasion to listen to the statement of the Member of Polish Parliament – Dr. Barbara Czaplicka, who also represents interest of patients with rare diseases in the Health Committee in Parliament. Mrs. Czaplicka gave the insight of her work in the Health Committee and the progress of implementing recommendations for rare diseases patients in Poland. She expressed her disappointment for the pace of this process mainly depending on the slowdown of work of the Polish Ministry of Health. She however was positive about cooperation with the patients organizations and stressed the importance of continuation of this to accelerate reaching better access to innovative therapies.

- This very interesting statement was followed by a panel of stakeholders: Krzysztof Wojciechowski (Infarma), Peter Balik (Institute of Health Policy, Slovakia), Dr. Konstanty Radziwiłł CPME, chaired by Tomasz Szelański (FPP).

Before discussion came the presentation by Dr. Konstanty Radziwiłł, (President-Elect of the Standing Committee of European Doctors, CPME, the Vice-President of the National Chamber of Doctors in Poland). He introduced briefly the CPME institution and its role in Pan-European healthcare system, especially in context of right to health for ALL PATIENTS – also for those badly treated by faith like undocumented migrants, unemployed, handicapped. This right to health is a prime criterion of democracy and never should disappear from the sight of all stakeholders of healthcare system in EU. He talked about co-relation between health and employment and necessity of supporting job creations in EU to enlarge access to curative and preventive healthcare. He stressed out how important for improvement in health equity are health literacy, overall education, developments of IT and strengthening of anti-discrimination policies in EU.

Panelists were discussing how and in which cases a multi-stakeholder approach to health right can make a difference. Mr. Balik elaborated on his experience in creating solutions on access to health care in Slovakia – where all the regulations are in place and the reform of the health care system could be fired off in case the stakeholders would be able to agree on the guaranteed basket of health procedures without increasing the health care premium.

Dr. Radziwiłł took up the topic of how the definition of the patient and his/her understanding of role as a patient is getting changed – with more focus on to the informed and empowered patient. This change in turn influences other stakeholders and pushes them for changing their approach and understanding of their role in the process of interacting with patients. In order to improve the effectiveness of public health services at **reducing health inequalities** it is crucial that public health programmes are enabled to cut across different sectors and engage local communities. In response to the European Commission Communication “Solidarity in Health” CPME suggested several measures to reduce inequalities in health:

- Improving the data and **knowledge base and mechanisms** for measuring, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Improvements in infrastructure, especially **water supply and housing**
- Improved **maternal and child** care
- Securing the right to health for **disadvantaged people**, including undocumented migrants and asylum seekers.

Strong advocacy for **‘health in all policies’** approach to encourage cross-sectoral awareness for and action on the determinants of health is needed to prevent disease and promote good health across society.

Mr. Wojciechowski supported a multi-stakeholder approach as a factor accelerating and implying necessary changes of the health care system. He enhanced the opinion of all panelist, that better co-operation between academia, pharma, patients organizations, insurance companies and politicians should result in working out solutions enabling an equitable access to health in EU.

- This discussion followed by active involvement by the audience gave introduction to a deeper analysis presented by Mr. Artur Carvalho from DG Sanco. The presentation highlighted the access to healthcare in EU on the Polish example and revealed very interesting facts and figures from a research currently conducted by DG Sanco. As the research is still ongoing it was difficult to draw any final conclusions from the presented material, however certain aspects were very visible e.g. clear limitations in access to care and cost inefficiencies in the Polish healthcare system. As pre-conclusions coming out of this presentation - a strategy to reduce waiting times (better management of waiting lists), strengthening of ambulatory care and improving outpatient facilities and services should be taking in to consideration by the decision makers in the Polish healthcare system.
- The last presentations by Nicola Bedlington (EPF) and Hanna Milczarek (FPP) delivered a perspective on EPF's election campaign in Poland. EPF Manifesto to the candidates to European Parliament in election in 2014 were presented in details – both the English and the Polish version followed by the PR and marketing strategy of disseminating the voice of patients to be enhanced by the future MEPs.
- The conference was closed by the President of Federation of Polish Patients – Stanisław Maćkowiak, Nicola Bedlington (Executive Director of European Patients' Forum)

Closing remarks

Andrey Kovatchev

The question is how to involve European Commission? Also we need to keep asking questions on this topic to MEPs and be persistence. Important thing is to be clear and precise on what are we going to achieve and ask direct question on what can expect from commission or MEPs?

Most important thing would be to identify what is the priority on European level? What good practices we can identify to make different European healthcare system united? We also need to put effort that after 2014 EP election, those issues will be on the agenda for European institutions and monitor them carefully how they are going to be implemented on national level?

Wishes of success for good outcome of our meeting and further work. Commitment for continuation of our discussion in Brussels.

Stanimir Hasurdhjev

The issues that were discussed previously in Brussels need to be tackled on national levels in Central European countries. Coming to Warsaw we would love to see mirroring Brussels Model on country level.

Taking the opportunities that there are many different stakeholder attending our Consensus Meeting, we have good chance to achieved this situation. Poland could be one of the first country to achieve such model. The expertise on what is the best practice to implement Brussels Model is among national partners and can be revealed in mutual discussions.

We will be very happy to learn from each other's and pass good practices to Bulgaria, Rumania, Lithuania, etc. Poland as the biggest country in the region should play important leading role in this subject and set the example to others.

Nicola Bedlington

It was a very reach day of discussions about the challenges Poland has to confront every day. There are number of opportunities how to present the Brussels Model of collaboration for alternative strategies in healthcare system reforms in Poland. EPF and its members like NPO and FPP can largely contribute to translate the European agenda to the country level.

This is very important to underline the active role of FPP in ongoing work done in Brussels and introduction of European issues in Poland. It is good to see FPP inspired to be engage in 2014 EU election campaign. It is important matter that all of us will go to vote and communicate patients' perspective.

Tomasz Szelągowski

Consensus Meeting "Access and Equity for Patients held in Warsaw on Dec. 3rd 2013 refers to Resolution and Call to Action of the First Conference on Health Inequalities in the New EU Member States, "Policymakers and Patients – Creating the Change" sign in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2012 and Vilnius Declaration and Call for Action "Sustainable Health Systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe". We truly believe that all issues discussed during panels and addressed by speakers in their presentations will be taken further to produce tangible results for patients around Europe.

The conference was closed by Nicola Bedlington (Executive Director of European Patients' Forum) and the President of Federation of Polish Patients – Stanisław Maćkowiak.

List of Participants

Nr.		First name	Sure name	Organization
1	Mrs	Anna	Andrzejczak	Point of View
2	Mr	Peter	Balík	Health Policy Institute (HPI), Słowacja
3	Mrs	Nicola	Bedlington	European Patients' Forum
5	Mrs	Karolina	Bielawska	GlaxoSmithKline
6	Mr	Jerzy	Bochyński	Fundacja Instytut Studiów Wschodnich
7	Mr	Artur	Carvalho	European Commission
8	Mr	Mariusz	Czerwiński	Chiesi Poland Sp. z o.o.
9	Mr	Cezary	Dmochowski	Młoda Farmacja - Oddział Warszawa
10	Mrs	Dorota	Fal	Polska Izba Ubezpieczeń
11	Mrs	Jakub	Gołąb	Fundacja na Rzecz Zdrowego Starzenia się
12	Mr	Wojciech	Gryta	Boehringer Ingelheim
13	Mr	Stanimir	Hasardzhiev	Bulgarian National Patients' Organization
14	Mrs	Elżbieta	Janaszekiewicz	Bristol-Myers Squibb
15	Mr	Tomasz F.	Kędzia	DLA DOBRA PACJENTA
16	Mrs	Dorota	Korycińska	Stowarzyszenie Alba Julia
17	Mr	Andrey	Kovatchev	European Parliament
18	Mrs	Beata	Kulesza	Fundacja serce Dziecka
19	Mr	Jerzy	Łazowski	Naczelna Izba Aptekarska
20	Mr	Stanisław	Maćkowiak	Federacja Pacjentów Polskich
21	Mrs	Hanna	Milczarek	Federacja Pacjentów Polskich
22	Mr	Marcin	Mleczo	MATIO
23	Mr	Robert	Mołdach	Pracodawcy RP
24	Mr	Wojciech	Nowak	Novartis
25	Mr	Daniel	Okniński	Philips Polska Sp. z o.o.
26	Mrs	Agnieszka	Olechowska	Młoda Farmacja - Oddział Warszawa
27	Mr	Stanisław	Onyszkiewicz	Point of View
28	Mrs	Małgorzata	Pachecka	Medical Communications Sp. z o.o.
29	Mrs	Karolina	Paciorek	Federacja Pacjentów Polskich
30	Mrs	Anna	Pająk	AbbVie
31	Mrs	Dominika	Pietrzyk	Młoda Farmacja - Oddział Warszawa
32	Mr	Konstanty	Radziwiłł	CPME
33	Mrs	Karina	Sasin	Polish MRKH Association
34	Mr	Tomasz	Szelański	Federacja Pacjentów Polskich
35	Mr	Przemysław	Sobieszczyk	DEBRA Polska Kruchy Dotyk
36	Mrs	Magdalena	Stolecka	DEBRA Polska Kruchy Dotyk
37	Mrs	Matylda	Trofimiuk	Stow. Pomocy Chorym na Mięśniaki Sarcoma
38	Mrs	Katarzyna	Wolska	Fundacja Instytut Studiów Wschodnich
39	Mr	Paweł	Wójtowicz	MATIO
40	Mrs	Janina	Zbiciak	Polskie Stowarzyszenie Diabetyków

Acknowledgement

Federation of Polish Patients, European Patients' Forum and the National Patients' Organization from Bulgaria would like to thank speakers, panelists and all participants for taking part in the "Consensus Meeting, Access and Equity for Patients".

Great appreciations goes as well to the Federation of Polish Patients Office Team for an extensive job done on making this meeting possible to organize.

Working together we will definitely keep our patients network alive and Access Platform run effectively.

*Federation of Polish Patients
European Patients' Forum
National Patients' Organization*

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