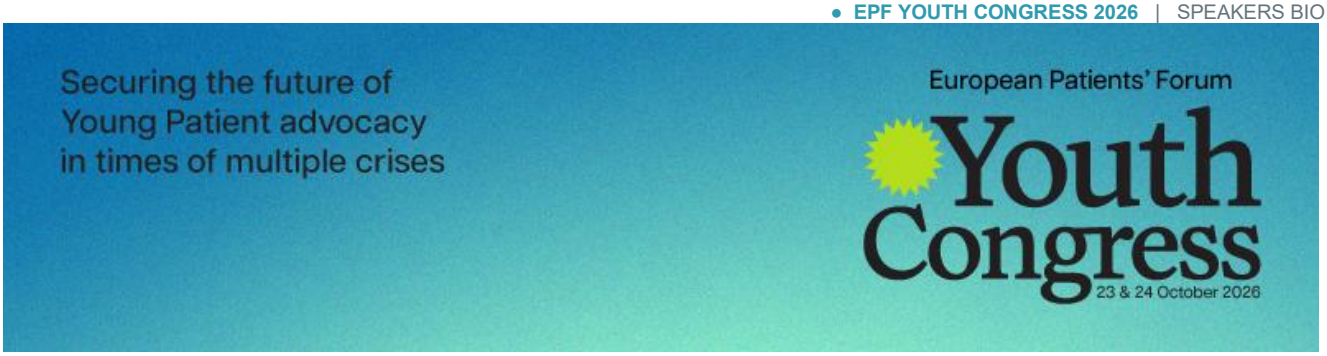


Our Speakers and Moderators

Masters of Ceremony

Erato Markantoni

Erato Markantoni is a member of the European Patients' Forum (EPF) Youth Group, committed to amplifying the voices of young patients in European health policy. In February 2025, she was selected to participate in the EU Youth Policy Dialogue on Preparedness in Brussels, organised by DG ECHO and HERA.

Within the EPF Youth Group, Erato has contributed to several initiatives, including the Sexual Health and Well-being Project, which gave young patients a platform to share their priorities and concerns through a Europe-wide survey. She is also currently involved in the Youth Involvement in Patient Organisations Project, designed to strengthen collaboration between patient advocates and organisations for the benefit of the wider patient community. Alongside her advocacy work, Erato is a medical student at King's College London, combining academic and clinical training with international outreach, where she delivered community health education and supported local clinics. She is dedicated to reducing health inequalities and empowering youth to shape patient-centred, resilient health systems.

Valentina Strammiello

Valentina Strammiello is the European Patients Forum Executive Director, and an active advocate for patient involvement in health policy.

In over 10 years of professional experience at EPF, she has developed and managed a growing research project portfolio and large multistakeholder partnerships. She is a passionate public speaker in multiple fora focusing on Health Technology Assessment, Digital Health, AI and Patient Engagement.

Before joining EPF, Valentina worked as freelance Open-Source Intelligence analyst in the Security and Energy sectors. She is among the founders of ecpa2.0 (European Centre for Public Affairs 2.0), a Brussels-based forum of young professionals in Public Affairs. She has an academic background in International Relations and European Studies.

Day 1 | Friday 23 October

Opening Plenary: Multiple Crises, One Voice - Young Patients in a World of Crises | *10:15–11:25*

Ivett Jakab

Ivett Jakab is a health policy researcher, health economist, and patient advocate. She holds an MSc in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing, and brings over 8 years of experience managing research projects on patient-centric health policy and the ethical and social impact assessment of AI in digital health technologies.

Ivett lives with a rare disease and a transplanted liver. Over the past decade, she has channeled her lived experience into empowering young patients - from supporting the psychosocial rehabilitation of organ-transplanted children and teenagers, to attending EPF STYPA in 2018, joining the EPF Youth Group in 2019, and serving as its proud President from 2020 to 2022. She is an EUPATI Fellow and member of the EUPATI Board of Trustees since 2020.

Kasia Kostka

Kasia Kostka is a Policy and Legal Officer at the Directorate-General for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (DG HERA) of the European Commission. Her work focuses on providing legal advice, strategic planning, and supporting the work of a governance group bringing together civil society representatives. She also serves as the Youth Correspondent for DG HERA. She holds a Master's degree in Law and Economics.

Frederico Guanais

Frederico Guanais is Deputy Head of the Health Division at the OECD, where he leads work on health system performance, person-centred care and primary health care. His portfolio includes the OECD's Patient-Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS), which assess health outcomes and experiences of care from the patient's perspective. He also works on how health systems can respond to financial pressures, workforce shortages and inequalities in access to care. Previously, he was Principal Health Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank and held senior positions in the Government of Brazil. He holds a PhD in Public Administration from New York University.

Maria Walawender

Maria Walawender is a research fellow with the global team of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, based at University College London. In her role, she co-leads the design, drafting, and editing of the group's indicator report, published annually in the Lancet, and coordinates an interdisciplinary collaborative of over 100 researchers and experts. She also works closely with the Lancet Countdown's regional centres around the world.

Agata Berenika Cybulska

Agata Berenika Cybulska is a youth advocate from Poland, passionate about health, gender equality and sustainability. Currently serving as a board member of the European Youth Forum and pursuing a medical degree at the Medical University of Gdańsk, with professional background in public relations and crisis management. Her year of studying abroad has sparked an interest in policy work, and resulted in representing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts Europe Region in the past 3 years. She is focused on social protection and inclusion, mental and physical health of the youth in Europe, as well as quality of life.

Keynote speech: Why democracy matters for young patient advocates in Europe | *11:25–11:40*

Olivér Várhelyi

Olivér Várhelyi is the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare in the Von der Leyen Commission (2024-2029).

Workshop 1 – Economic Crisis and Youth Patient Advocacy | *12:00–13:15*

Marleen Sorensen

Marleen Sorensen is a German/Spanish women's health and patient advocate and a member of the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH). She is a Health and Social Psychology student. She has asthma and is passionate about representing young patients and their families.

Michele Migliori

Dr. Michele Migliori is a Policy Analyst at the European Policy Centre (EPC), working within the Health and Societal Resilience programme. His work focuses on European health policy, particularly health governance, preparedness, access to innovation, industrial policy, and the resilience of healthcare systems. He also leads the EPC's contribution to the Horizon Europe project TOBE, coordinating the organisation's activities within the consortium and its engagement with policymakers and stakeholders.

Alison Maassen

Alison Maasen is Programme Manager at EuroHealthNet, where she contributes to overall management activities, oversees EuroHealthNet's contributions to various EU-funded projects, and supports the PRACTICE Platform. She holds an MSc in Public Health (Health Promotion) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as well as a BA in International

Affairs and Anthropology from The George Washington University in Washington DC. Alison brings significant experience in project and association management to EuroHealthNet, as well as experience in designing and implementing health promotion interventions at the community level.

Workshop 2 – Geopolitical Shifts, Conflicts & Shrinking Welfare States: What It Means for Young Patients | *12:00–13:15*

Natalie Pidmurniak

As a Youth Advisory Board Member to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, she leads the Department of International Medical Diplomacy, contributing to national and international policy dialogues on post-war health system recovery, resilience, and youth engagement. She initiated and launched Ukraine's National Youth Delegate Program to the World Health Organization, becoming the country's first youth delegate to the World Health Assembly (WHA). She was later entrusted to deliver Ukraine's official national statement at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC75), strengthening youth participation in global health decision-making

Louise Bonneau

Prior to joining PICUM, Louise worked for the European Commission and several civil society organisations, including Hope and Homes for Children and Missing Children Europe. She is also the co-founded Bridge EU, a Brussels-based human rights organisation that builds intersectional networks across Europe to strengthen human rights protection movements and policy developments.

Louise Bonneau is Advocacy Officer at the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM). In her role, she focuses on access to justice and health for undocumented migrants, leading PICUM's advocacy on these issues at EU and international level.

Andrea Soler Eslava

Andrea Soler is Policy Advisor on Humanitarian Affairs and Migration at Médecins du Monde in Brussels, where she leads policy work at EU level. MdM is an international medical humanitarian organisation that provides care, bears witness and advocates for the universal right to health, working in more than 65 countries. Andrea holds a Masters on Migration and Public Policy and a background on Political Science. Over the last 8 years, Andrea has worked with NGOs in Europe and IOM in Côte d'Ivoire, and she has expertise in project mangement, policy and advocacy.

Workshop 3 – Climate, Health & Chronic Conditions | *12:00–13:15*

Anna Murdock

Anna Murdock is the Policy Officer at the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA), a proud member of the EPF. Drawing on her background in public health and European health policy, she shapes the engagement with European policymakers and regulatory authorities to advance lung health and patient priorities across the EU. Her work focuses on allergy and respiratory care, with particular attention to the social, economic, and environmental determinants that affect access to high-quality, patient-centred healthcare.

Aleksandra Kazmierczak

Dr Aleksandra Kaźmierczak is a coordinator of the European Climate and Health Observatory at the European Environment Agency (EEA). The Observatory is an informal partnership between the European Commission, EEA, and other European and international organisations. It aims to develop knowledge on climate change impacts on health and on the actions that can reduce or prevent those impacts. Aleksandra is a geographer by background and has worked on adaptation to climate change for over 15 years. Before joining the EEA in 2017, Aleksandra carried out research at University of Manchester and Cardiff University, UK, focussing on socio-environmental inequalities and green infrastructure solutions in the climate change context.

Szymon Gorny

is the Vice President of Generation Climate Europe (GCE), where he works to strengthen youth participation in European climate and environmental policymaking. Alongside this role, he is an Associate Consultant at RPP Group in Brussels, working on EU public affairs and policy engagement. Previously, he served on the inaugural Youth Advisory Council of the

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and has contributed to European and international initiatives on climate action, youth empowerment and inclusive policymaking.

Plenary 2: Power & Participation: Who Gets a Seat at the Health Policy Table? | *15:15–16:30*

Andreas Christodoulou

Andreas is the Director of Operations at the Cyprus Federation of Patients' Associations (CyFPA), an EPF member whose mission is to ensure that patients in Cyprus have access to holistic, patient-centered, equitable, and socially inclusive healthcare.

Within EPF, Andreas acts as an advisor, patient expert, and the main representative of the Cypriot Federation of Patients' Associations. In 2023, he was elected as a Board Member of EPF's Board of Directors, and since May 2025, he has been re-elected as Treasurer. Previously, he served as President of EPF's Youth Group. At the national level, Andreas was appointed by the Council of Ministers to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus National eHealth Authority (NeHA) in 2019 and was re-elected as Vice-President in 2024. Since late 2020, he acts as a founding and board member of EUPATI Cyprus. As an expert patient advocate — and a patient himself — Andreas has been actively involved in the fight against cancer through the promotion of prevention and early detection, as well as the improvement of the quality of life of all cancer patients and their relatives.

Šarūnas Narbutas

Šarūnas Narbutas is a lawyer, globally recognized patient advocate, civil activist and strategic consultant focusing on growing life science ecosystem. Living with a rare type of blood cancer for 20 years, Šarūnas has founded and chaired cancer patient organisations at national, European and global level. Šarūnas has been a speaker at over 300 high-level international conferences, has led policy changes on cancer-related issues in various continents, has been advising governments, heads of state and international institutions for over a decade. Šarūnas holds multiple degrees and qualifications, is a recent graduate of Stanford Executive Education.

Johanna Kintrup

Johanna Kintrup is a pharmacist from Germany with experience in student representation and youth engagement at national and European levels, representing the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) as alumna and EPSA Treasurer 2025–2026. Johanna was actively involved in student associations over the last four years, including roles in EPSA as well as serving as President of the German Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPhD) in 2023–2024. Johanna is currently based in Brussels, undertaking an internship at a pharmaceutical trade association.

Danai Spentzou

She has previously worked as a lawyer and legal consultant conducting research on different topics, from energy law, to public procedural law, and women's rights.

For the last 5 years she has worked as apolitical advisor for Member of the European Parliament in the Committees of Environment, Climate Change, Food Safety and Public Health. She has previously worked for a Greek member of the Parliament, now she is working for a Hungarian Member. Her engagement in drafting health policy has awaken her passion in advocacy for access to healthcare and outside my work she is involved in 2 initiatives: the 1. Young Voices of Health Policy (Coordinator), and the Greek Voices in Health Policy (Co-Founder). She is also the Youth Ambassador for EU Affairs for the AI Literacy Hub, Nanopoulos Foundation, in New York, building relationship between Europe and USA.

Jana Hlaváčová

Jana Hlaváčová is Head of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit at the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and External Policy Advisor to the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP). Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at 24, she has been an active patient advocate since 2015, serving as EMSP's Young People's Representative, Board Member and interim CEO. She previously co-founded the Patient Involvement Unit at the Czech Ministry of Health and helped embed patient participation in healthcare decision-making. Her work focuses on empowering patient voices, strengthening meaningful patient involvement in health policy, and ensuring that patients' experiences and priorities shape decisions about healthcare and access to innovation.

Day 2 | Saturday 24 October

Plenary 3: Youth involvement in patient organisations: Breaking Silos | *09:30–10:30*

Konstantina Boumaki

Konstantina Boumaki is a medical doctor, a patient and diabetes advocate, living with type 1 diabetes since 2005. She currently serves as a Board Member of the European Patients' Forum, Board Treasurer of the Hellenic Diabetes Federation and is a member of EPF's Youth Group. Her work focuses on fighting for patients' rights, improving access to care and ensuring that the patient voice is included in health policy at national and European levels.

Marco Greco

He was chairman of the European Federation of Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA) from 2008 to 2014. He was the founder of the EFCCA Youth Group, and its leader from 2003 till 2007. He was appointed as patient representative by the European Commission in the European Medicines Agency Management Board from 2019 to June 2025, following his appointment as Patient representative in the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee at the European Medicines Agency (PRAC-EMA) from 2013 to February 2019.

He holds a degree (MA) in Law from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - MILAN and a Ph.D. in Law and Religious Freedom. He is currently working as an attorney in his law firm.

Marco Greco has been President of the European Patients' Forum since 2014.

Anna Revilla Bruñol

Anna Revilla Bruñol is a Member of the EPF Youth Group. She is also the Membership and Community Coordinator at EMSP, supporting young people living with Multiple Sclerosis. Following her own MS diagnosis, she has also been a member of the 2024 EFNA Community Advisory Board and collaborated with the Fundació Esclerosi Múltiple Catalunya to strengthen the involvement of young people with MS in their local communities.

Mehitabel Holler

Mehitabel Holler is the Patients and Research Manager at the European Heart Network (EHN), with over five years of experience in European healthcare policy and patient advocacy. Their commitment to amplifying young patients' voices is deeply personal: after their symptoms were misdiagnosed at 17, they spent a decade experiencing severe cardiac arrhythmias before finally receiving appropriate treatment at 27. Drawing on both their professional expertise and lived experience, they lead efforts to ensure that young people's realities and needs are recognised and meaningfully reflected in cardiovascular health and public health policies.

Iva Galovic

As Programme and Engagement Manager at the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA), she is dedicated to advancing patient advocacy and amplifying the voices of people living with neurological conditions. She is passionate about ensuring that patients' experiences, perspectives, and needs are heard, valued, and reflected in policy and decision-making. Through her work, she champions a stronger patient voice and strives to ensure that people living with neurological conditions are at the heart of the decisions that affect their lives.

Iva Galovic is a communications professional with over 15 years of experience in strategic communications and public relations.

Fireside chat presentations: Success stories of involving young people across sectors | *11:00–11:30*

Flavia Topan

Flavia Topan is a senior communications professional with a PhD in Communication Sciences and a strong track record at the intersection of communication practice, research, and health policy. She joined EPF in 2022 and, as Senior

Communications Manager, is responsible for shaping EPF's communication strategy and leading the organisation's communications and public relations function.

Prior to EPF, Flavia advised and led communication initiatives for public and private hospitals in Romania and partnered with national patients' associations on advocacy, communication, and patient education projects. Her background in academic research and university teaching informs her strategic approach to communication, with particular expertise in health communication, innovation, and stakeholder engagement.

Bianca Castro

Bianca Castro is a climate justice activist, recognized on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Portugal 2025 list. In 2019, she co-organized Portugal's first student climate strike and has since worked at both national and international levels, including as a delegate to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences. She is the Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator at Roots, a global NGO that supports communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis in more than 100 countries.

Rareș Voicu

Rareș Voicu has been involved in the field of youth and child participation since the age of 15. Over the past nine years, he has led youth organisations at the local, national and international level, advocating for the rights of his peers and empowering them to have their voices heard by decision-makers. He served as President of the European Youth Forum from 2024 to 2026, having previously been a Board Member of the organisation. He has also worked for UNICEF in the field of child and adolescent engagement, supporting the participation of children in decision-making processes. Rareș holds an LLB in Global Law from Tilburg University.

Adam Skali

Adam Skali works at the intersection of digital health, artificial intelligence, interoperability, regulatory science, prevention, and health-system transformation. He has coordinated or contributed to more than 50 international consortia involving over 500 organisations worldwide, with the potential to mobilise more than EUR 600 million. As Director of Innovation at the CIeS e-Health Innovation Center, Adam has helped advance several of Morocco's main digital health and AI initiatives and the region's interoperability and AI in health strategy. He contributed to establishing the Moroccan health interoperability laboratory and its collaborations with HIMSS and IHE.

Plenary 4: From Vision to Action | *11:30–12:30*

Claudia Louati

Currently she's the Head of Policy and Capacity Building, leading EPF's policy, advocacy and capacity building work, ensuring that the patient perspective is meaningfully integrated into health policies. Claudia guides EPF's policy and regulatory engagement with EU and international stakeholders and contributes to strengthening the voice of patients in shaping healthcare systems that meet their needs.

Before joining EPF, Claudia worked for nearly seven years at the Europe Office of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, based at the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, where she promoted EU-U.S. regulatory collaboration on medical products. She began her career as a communications and public affairs consultant in Brussels.

Claudia Louati joined the European Patients' Forum as Head of Policy in May 2023.

Sıla Gürbüz

Previously, she served as Public Health Director of the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA). Her work focuses on youth health, digital health, climate and health, and health equity through research, policy development, and advocacy. She has contributed to high-level international discussions and policy processes, including at the European Parliament and the World Health Organization (WHO), advocating for more inclusive, equitable, and youth-responsive health systems.

Sıla Gürbüz is a medical doctor from Türkiye and a youth health advocate dedicated to advancing meaningful youth participation in health policy and decision-making. She currently serves as Co-Lead of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe's Youth4Health Digital Health Working Group and Co-Lead of the Health Working Group of YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Michele Calabrò

Before joining EUREGHA in May 2022, Michele held positions at the European Health Management Association (Policy and Communications Manager), the European Patients' Forum (Policy Adviser), and DIGITALEUROPE (Senior Manager, Digital Health Policy). Over the years, he has played a leading role in several strategic EU-level projects, including TO-REACH, DigitalHealthEurope, PERISCOPE, IN-4-AHA, and BeWell. Between 2020 and 2022, he also served as Co-Chair of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance.

Michele Calabrò is Executive Director of EUREGHA – the European Regional and Local Health Authorities network, where he leads the Secretariat's work on advocacy, knowledge exchange and partnerships, outreach.

Kaisa Immonen

Kaisa Immonen joined the Stakeholders and Public engagement team of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 2023. She supports interactions with patients, consumers and their organisations, in particular patients' involvement in scientific advice and the initiative on patient experience data. Kaisa holds a Master's degree in Health Policy, Management and Innovation (Maastricht University) and a Master's in International Relations (University of Kent at Canterbury/Tampere University). She has extensive experience of EU health policy and patient advocacy and as Director of Policy at the European Patients' Forum and co-chaired the EMA Patients and Consumers Working Party in 2016-2022.

Nina Grmuša

Nina Grmuša is Council of Europe Advisor on Youth Perspective, where she is helping the Organisaiton in furthering the work in removing barriers to meaningful youth participation and integration of youth perspective across decision and policy making across all the deliberations.