



Securing the future of Young Patient advocacy in times of multiple crises

23 & 24 October 2026, Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by:

Youth Group of the European Patients' Forum (EPF)

Day 1 – Friday 23 October

09:30– 10:00 | Arrival & Registration

10:00 – 10:25 | Opening & Welcome

1. Setting the Scene

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

From climate to conflict, from cost of living to misinformation. High-level dialogue with representatives from diverse stakeholders.

Moderator: **Ivett Jakab**, Former President, EPF Youth Group.

Speakers: **Kasia Kostka**, Policy and Legal Officer, DG HERA; DG HERA youth correspondent and Civil Society Forum coordinator;

Frederico Guanais, Deputy Head, Health Division, OECD;

Maria Walawender, PhD student and Research Fellow in Climate Change and Health, Lancet Countdown;

Agata Berenika Cybulska, Board Member, European Youth Forum; lead for social protection and social inclusion.

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

11:40 – 12:00 | Coffee Break

2. Zooming into the Multiple crises

12:00 – 13:15 | Parallel Interactive Workshops

Workshop 1 – Economic Crisis and Youth Patient Advocacy

Exploring how the current economic crisis impacts young patient advocates and youth engagement more broadly, including access to resources, opportunities, and participation in policy spaces.

Moderator: **Marleen Sorensen**, Vice-President, EPF Youth Group.

Speakers: **Michele Migliori**, Policy Analyst, Health and Societal Resilience Programme, European Policy Centre;

Alison Maassen, Programme Manager, EuroHealthNet.

Workshop 2 – Geopolitical Shifts, Conflicts & Shrinking Welfare States: What It Means for Young Patients

How wars, economic instability, EU-level shifts and national policy changes are reshaping access to health-care, social protection and patients' rights - and why young patients are often the first to feel it.

Moderator: **Natalie Pidmurniak**, Young patient advocate from Ukraine; Medical resident
Youth medical diplomacy | WHO Youth Delegate (Ukraine).

Speakers: **Louise Bonneau**, Advocacy Officer; Access to Justice, Racial Equality and Health, PICUM.

Workshop 3 – Climate, Health & Chronic Conditions

Understanding how climate change and environmental crises affect health systems and people living with chronic conditions – and where youth advocacy can drive change.

Moderator: **Anna Murdock**, Health and Care Policy Officer, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations

Speakers: **Aleksandra Kazmierczak**, Coordinator, European Climate and Health Observatory, European Environment Agency;
Szymon Gorny, Board Member, Generation Climate Europe; healthcare public affairs and environment.

13:15 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 15:15 | Report back from workshops

Workshop 1: **Marleen Sorensen**, Vice-President, EPF Youth Group.

Workshop 2: **Natalie Pidmurniak**, Young patient advocate from Ukraine; physician and global health researcher;

Workshop 3: **Anna Murdock**, Health and Care Policy Officer, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations.

3. Power & Participation

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

Discussion with young representatives across the health ecosystem on strengthening meaningful youth representation in health policy.

Moderator: **Andreas Christodoulou**, EPF Treasurer and Board Member, Former EPF YG President

Speakers: **Sarunas Narbutas**, Co-founder and Chairman, Youth Cancer Europe;
Johanna Kintrup, Treasurer 2025-2026, European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA);

Danai Spentzou, Accredited Parliamentary Assistant at the European Parliament and Coordinators of the Young Voices in Health Policy (YVHP);

Jana Hlaváčová, Minister of Health Czechia - HTA Unit, and Former EMSP Youth Group Member

16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Day 1

Reflections on the day and what to expect on Day II

19:30 – 22:00 | Dinner & Networking

Celebrating Pre-10 Years of STYPA and youth advocacy milestones

Day 2 – Saturday 24 October

Focus: Co-creating the future of youth patient advocacy in Europe.

09:00 – 09:30 | Morning Energiser

4. Patient Organisations & Governance

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

Discussion with patient advocacy leaders on embedding meaningful youth involvement in patient organisation governance and decision-making.

Moderator: **Konstantina Boumaki**, EPF Youth Group and EPF Board Member.

Speakers: **Marco Greco**, President, European Patients' Forum;

Anna Revilla Bruñol, EPF Youth Group; EMSP Young People's Network;

Mehitabel Holler, Patient advocate and Patients & Research Manager, European Heart Network

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

5. Youth Policy Impact & Best Practices

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

Success stories from other sectors - youth advocacy with an impact, including climate, democracy and civil rights

Climate: **Bianca Castro**, Environmental columnist and speaker.

Youth rights: **Rares Voicu**, Member of Youth Advisory Board of Von der Leyen, and European Youth Forum Former President.

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

A discussion on how to strengthen meaningful youth participation and ensure young patients can influence health policy and system transformation in practice.

Moderator: **Claudia Louati**, Head of Policy and Capacity Building, European Patients' Forum.

Speakers: **Sıla Gürbüz**, WHO Youth4Health representative;

Michele Calabrò, Director, EUREGHA;

Kaisa Immonen, Patient Liaison at EMA;

Nina Grmuša, Advisor on Youth Perspective, Council of Europe.

12:30 – 13:00 | Closing Session

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch

EPF Youth Group Elections

14:00 – 17:00

Young patient advocates endorsed by EPF members will vote for new Youth Group members.

Departure