

# NEWSLETTER

Patient Access Partnership

## Editorial

Dear readers,

We are very pleased to send you this newsletter containing information on important positive developments related to the Patient Access Partnership.

The multi-stakeholder approach has been of key value to our work so far in defining *access* and assessing patient and other stakeholders' experiences of access across the EU. More specifically, it has been used for designing and conducting a questionnaire based on the 5As principles of access to evaluate elements of healthcare systems such as primary care, hospital care, medicines, etc. and thereby provide practical tools for future policy action.

Moreover, PACT received additional attention, recognition and support at the European Health Forum in Gastein during the session that we organised with a focus on multi-morbidity as one of the fundamental issues for the sustainability of healthcare systems across the EU.

We also take pride and are grateful for the active engagement of the MEP Interest group on access whose members tirelessly explore opportunities for expanding the support in the European Parliament. The MEP Interest Group will organise an event which will take place in November. We will be delighted to see you all there and will be in touch with more information soon.

The Commission's Expert Panel on Access to Healthcare was published last month. It reiterates the importance of working in partnership to galvanise our common efforts and find **solutions** that will improve access to quality healthcare in Europe.

The Patient Access Partnership will do what it can to support this process.

With an exciting season ahead of us, I look forward to working with you all to ensure that equal access to quality healthcare is further mainstreamed in policies, programmes and practices across Europe.

Stanimir Hasurdjiev  
Secretary-General  
Patient Access Partnership

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## SAVE THE DATE !

### • Next Partners' Assembly on 11 December

The next Partners' Assembly of the Patient Access Partnership will take place on **11 December** from 9.30 h – 12.30 in Brussels. It will be followed by a meeting of the new elected Steering committee until 16.00 h. Please save the date in your calendar!

### • Forthcoming event organised by the MEP Interest group on Access to Healthcare

The MEP Interest Group on Access to healthcare will organise an event in **November** to discuss the findings of the preliminary opinion on access to health services in the EU by the Expert Panel. The main objective of the meeting will be to give all stakeholders the opportunity to share their views and discuss ideas.

More information will follow soon.

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### **Open Consultation - Preliminary opinion from the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health – Deadline for comments Friday 6 November**

The **Expert Panel on Effective ways of investing in health** has published the Preliminary Opinion on access to health services in the European Union.

The Preliminary Opinion addresses barriers to accessing health care and explores policy measures to overcome them. Ways to improve equity could include matching health needs and financial resources, affordable and accessible health services, the availability of a sufficient number of health workers with the right skills, well-equipped facilities within easy reach, the availability of quality medicines and medical devices and services that are relevant and cost-effective. It pays special attention to access to health services for underserved groups as Roma, undocumented migrants and people with mental health problems.

The Expert Panel is seeking feedback on this preliminary Opinion, and the European Commission has launched a public consultation, until November 6<sup>th</sup>.

All interested parties can submit their comments, which will enable the expert panel to formulate its final views.

PACT strongly encourage its partners to engage in the consultation process, and submit their written comments following the procedure established in the Consultation, before **Friday 6 November**.

Submit comments: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/AccessHealthCare>

[More information on the public consultations](#)

All the information is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert\\_panel/consultations/access\\_healthcare\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/expert_panel/consultations/access_healthcare_en.htm)

### **PACT session at Gastein**

On October 1st, the **Patient Access Partnership (PACT)** organised a session on “facing the challenge of multimorbidity...and how do we make it work for the patients” at the European Health Forum in Gastein. It focused on the patient experiences and gathered more than 60 participants from across the EU.

Patients are increasingly faced with the challenge of living with more than one condition, and multimorbidity is on its way to becoming a fundamental issue for the sustainability of healthcare systems.

Three patients with very different background shared their experience of living with multimorbidities and insight on how to improve healthcare. You can read more [HERE](#) and at the [blog](#), written by Young Gasteiner, Laurène Souchet.



We are happy to announce the launch of our official Twitter account.

Make sure to follow **@PACT\_eu**

Link: [https://twitter.com/PACT\\_eu](https://twitter.com/PACT_eu)

Follow us and stay tuned with all the latest updates on PACT!

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### **Presentation of PACT at PHA Europe annual conference**

The work of PACT was presented during the Annual conference of PHA Europe which was held on 17-22 September 2015 in Barcelona.

A key focus of the presentation was PACT survey as a tool to improve access in different disease areas, in particular Pulmonary Hypertension, and adapting it by making a comprehensive research on gaps and barriers to access for certain diseases.

### **New uploads in the website**

The **Interim Steering committee** met in [April](#) and [July](#). You can find the minutes on PACT website.

The members of the **Workstream meeting "Access is high on the agenda"** met in [July](#) to discuss the PACT session at the European Health Forum Gastein and the upcoming collaboration with the EP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare.

The preliminary results of the **survey** of the Patient Access Partnership are already available. For more details, please visit PACT website at the following [LINK](#).

### **Thank you to Burson Marsteller for their pro bono support**

Since September Burson Marsteller is supporting PACT on a pro bono basis. They have contributed to the development of the flyer of the PACT session at the European Health Forum in Gastein and will advise on the organisation's communication strategy.

We are sincerely thankful for their support!

### **In the news...**

[Facing the challenge of multimorbidity—an interview with Stanimir Hasurdjiev in advance of European Health Forum in Gastein](#)