

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



//APRIL 2018 ISSUE

Welcome to the EPF newsletter.

This week, 23-29 April, is European Immunization Week. Check out [our video](#), that spotlights the experiences of two patients from Italy. This is part of our contribution, alongside others, to raise awareness on the benefits of vaccination and the importance of better and more patient-friendly information. Help us transform vaccine hesitancy into vaccine confidence for patients!

At this critical time, as discussions are underway on EU priorities post-2020, strong leadership in health is a must. Together with 14 other NGOs from the public health sector we [released a statement](#) that details our six 'asks' behind our vision for the future of the European Union, where health plays a central role. Read about the [#EU4HEALTH joint statement](#) and how it was received.

On 12 April, we celebrated [World Health Day 2018](#) with the theme 'Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere'. On this special occasion, that also marks the 70th anniversary of the World Health Organisation, EPF supported WHO's call on world leaders to live up to the pledges they made when they agreed the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and commit to concrete steps to advance #HealthForAll.

Throughout the first quarter of 2018, we have been very active on the topic of non-discrimination in the workplace and the inclusion of people [with chronic conditions in employment](#). So far, we have engaged in two European Parliament initiatives, EU projects and have published three different resources developed by EPF and its members for our networks.

The [First Open Forum on Patient Engagement](#) in the life cycle of medicines, together with EUPATI, and PFMD took place in Brussels on 10 April. The Forum launched the IMI project PARADIGM, which we co-lead with EFPIA, focusing on patient engagement in medicines development.

Also in April we held our [15th AGM](#), bringing our members to Brussels to take stock of our 2017 achievements and to look together into the future activities of 2018 and beyond, with a leadership meeting on the European Elections campaign that included a very entertaining and informative quiz.

In our blog, the RED NOSES CEO Monica Culen tells us more about [patient empowerment in healthcare clowning](#).

Finally, some [changes in EPF Secretariat](#), as we are saying goodbye to Danielle and welcome to Brendan as our new Finance Manager this month.

Enjoy the reading!

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General



WHAT MATTERS TO PATIENTS
ABOUT VACCINATION

#EU4HEALTH - HEALTH MUST
PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE
FUTURE OF THE EU

[SEE OUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE
PAGE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

02/05/2018 | Life at what cost? Hard choices in healthcare

Brussels

EPF attendance



Valentina and Silvia are two patients from Milan, Italy. We want to share their experience to raise awareness on the benefits of vaccination and the importance of better and more patient-friendly information. Help us transform vaccine hesitancy into vaccine confidence for patients!

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Together with other 14 NGOs from the public health sector we released a public statement that details our six claims at the backbone of our vision for the future of the European Union.

[READ MORE »](#)

Katie Gallagher

14-15/05/2018 | [Twelfth International Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Compliance Congress](#)

Vienna

EPF speaker
Nicola Bedlington

15/05/2018 | [Sustainable Development Goals vs European Pillar of Social Rights? Making two frameworks work together](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Katie Gallagher

16/05/2018 | [Shifting to Value Based Health Care: From Theory to Practice](#)

Paris

EPF speaker
Nicola Bedlington

24-25/05/2018 | [Patient-MedTech Dialogue Workshops](#)

Brussels

EPF speaker
Nicola Bedlington

10-12/05/2018 | [European Conference on Rare Diseases 2018](#)

Vienna

EPF attendance
Katie Gallagher

16/05/2018 | [Better Policy for Metastatic Cancer Patients: Bridging the Gap roundtable](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Katie Gallagher

16/05/2018 | [Patient involvement in proms](#)

Paris

EPF speaker
Kaisa Immonen

17-18/05/2018 | [OECD quality indicators meeting](#)

Paris

EPF speaker
Kaisa Immonen

25/05/2018 | [Europabio-patients forum](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Kostas Aliogiannis

25/05/2018 | [EEUnethTA Stakeholder Forum](#)

Cologne, Germany

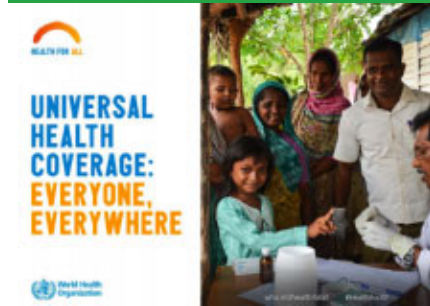
TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE WHAT MATTERS MOST TO EVERYONE IN EUROPE: A COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH



Health requires specific political drive and dedicated Commission resources to meet citizens' expectations. To achieve this, we call for the next Commission to include a Vice-President for Health.

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WORLD HEALTH DAY 2018: 'UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE'



The theme of World Health Day 2018 is 'Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere'. On this special occasion, that also marks the 70th anniversary of the World Health Organisation, EPF supports WHO's call on world leaders to live up to the pledges they made when they agreed the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and commit to concrete steps to advance #HealthForAll.

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EMPLOYMENT AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS



At EPF, we have been always very active on the topic of non-discrimination in the workplace and the inclusion of people with chronic conditions in employment. So far, in the first quarter of 2018, we have engaged in two European Parliament initiatives, EU

PARADIGM: A UNIQUE COLLABORATION FOR BETTER PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT



A brand new collaboration between 34 public and private partners was launched on 10 April, with the aim to make meaningful patient engagement in the life cycle of medicines a reality. PARADIGM stands for Patients Active in Research and Dialogues for

project work on the topic and have published 3 materials developed by EPF and its members.

an Improved Generation of Medicines and is funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative.

*EPF attendance
Valentina Stramiello*

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[READ MORE »](#)

AGM 2018: WE ARE NOT ONLY A BUDGET LINE, WE ARE PATIENTS



On 14-15 April 2018, EPF members gathered in Brussels for the 15th EPF Annual General Meeting. The event was the occasion to report on our activities in 2017 and to glance at what we have planned for 2018. The meeting also saw the election of new board members and the approval of 1 new member organisation.

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PATIENTS' EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HEALTHCARE CLOWNING



RED NOSES is an artistic organisation that empowers hospitalised persons. Our Secretary General, Nicola Bedlington delivered a key note at their recent Healthcare Clowning International Meeting in Vienna. We asked their CEO Monica Culen to write a guest blog post on patient empowerment.

[READ MORE »](#)

HELLO BRENDAN, GOODBYE DANIELLE!



This month, we said goodbye to Danielle Flores, EPF Project Manager and welcomed Bredan Togher, our new EPF Finance Manager!

[READ MORE »](#)

**A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE
TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE**

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