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U-impact

Aida Barquero works for Fundaci3n Ciudadan3a, a Spanish NGO that aims to promote active citizenship and the participation of citizens in public life and policy-making, especially in Europe.

Sonia Belfiore works for Active Citizenship Network since 2015 as Project Manager. She also deals with networking and communication activities. She has coordinated this event and is responsible for a European communication campaign on cross-border healthcare.

Maria-Louisa Busuttil, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., is a physiotherapist with a Master's Degree in Health Services Management, both degrees attained at the University of Malta. She is currently working as Fund Manager on national funds with the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. She has for nine years fulfilled the role as Chief Executive of the Malta Association of Physiotherapists and is currently a member on the EU Matters Working Group of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy. She has a special interest in European Union health policy more specifically on cross-border healthcare, European Professional Card and eHealth. She has implemented a study on patients willingness to access cross-border health care in Malta as part her Master's Degree.

Gertrude Buttigieg is a Licensed Speech Language Pathologist and holds a Master's degree in Health Services Management. On a voluntary basis has served on the committee of the Association of Speech Language Pathologists since 1995. In 2007 she was elected Honorary Secretary of the Malta Health Network and serves on the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development, representing the sectors of Health and Elderly. Ms Buttigieg serves as Secretary to the Malta Federation of Professional Association and since 2014 has been serving as council member on the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. Ms Buttigieg has participated in several conferences sharing her professional background and experience in the voluntary sector. Gertrude's face and voice are familiar to the Maltese audience as she has participated for a number of years on various TV and Radio programmes educating the general public on issues related to Communication difficulties, patient empowerment and advocacy and Patients' Rights.

Timo Clemens is a nurse by profession and completed his Master in Public Health at Maastricht University in 2010. Then, he joined the Department of International Health at Maastricht University to work in the context of a PhD project on Europeanisation effects in healthcare – understanding the impact of EU policies on the healthcare organization in its Member States. He has worked on analyses on the implementation of the Patient Rights Directive in Europe. Moreover, Timo has been involved as well in projects looking at diabetes literacy, patients' rights and small states' health systems in Europe.

MEP Sergio Cofferati is member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection at the European Parliament. During his political career, he held offices in a political party, national trade union and local government bodies.

Claire Damilano is a Senior Legal Manager, specialised in European law and particularly in the area of free movement of people and citizenship. Her main tasks include:



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- Ensuring the sound management of the Your Europe Advice (YEA) service, including the management of 60 legal experts.
- Raise the knowledge and the awareness of the YEA experts, the general public and specific audiences on certain legal issues related to EU Rights, specifically related to free movement rights.
- Ensure that ECAS' official documents are in line with Belgian law.

Claire, who joined ECAS in 2001, is a qualified lawyer from France who specializes in International and European Social law. She previously worked in the Human Resources department of a French NGO called AFIJ, and has also worked as a researcher for the University Paris X.

Androulla Eleftheriou obtained her graduate and postgraduate degrees in Biochemistry, Microbiology and Virology, and Business Administration from London universities. Since 2005 she has held the post of director of the Cyprus WHO Collaborating Centre. She worked closely with TIF on an official basis since 1993 as a Scientific Coordinator of TIF's educational programme, and since 2006 she has obtained an official post serving as the Executive Director of the Federation. Dr Eleftheriou is a member of Cyprus Haemoglobinopathies Forum and acts as the Director of the Cyprus WHO Collaborating Centre of the Cyprus Ministry of Health. Furthermore, she participates in the European Union Committee of Experts in Rare Diseases (EUCERD) and has served on the Board of Directors of European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and on the Advisory Board of the European School of Transfusion Medicine (ESTM). She has been in addition assigned as the Executive Director of the newly established CARD (Cyprus Alliance for Rare Disorders) and has served as Assistant to the Directors of the e-Msc in Haemoglobinopathies course from 2006-2014.

Penka Georgieva represents the following patient organizations: Patients' Organizations With you, Institute Innovations, Association of Reproductive Health, Pregnancy and Childcare "Smile", Alliance of Transplanted and Operated ATO "Future for All", Association of Patients with Cardiovascular Diseases. They are civic & patient organisations working respectively at national and European level. She was patient representative in the National Health Insurance Fund. These organizations are registered as legal non-profit organizations. They carry out public benefit activities. Patient organizations aim to: initiation and participation in public debates and dialogue with the institutions in connection with the strengthening of citizen participation in the management and control of the health care system.

Emete İmge works as a HR Manager at the Development Bank in Cyprus. İmge is an activist and a volunteer in the Cyprus Turkish Civil Society since 1993. She was one of the founders of Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Ass. and Universal Patients' Rights Ass.. At present, she is leading Universal Patients' Rights Association. Emete İmge voluntarily provides facilitation services, consultation and mentoring to TC CSOs. She conducts capacity building trainings such as "Advocacy and Lobbying", "Networking" " Volunteer Management" for the members of the civil society organizations. She also supports the civil society actions working on the SmokeFree Regulations and she is a member of the Tobacco Control Round Table group. Emete İmge is also Steering Committee member of "Civic Space" Civil Society EU Project. She appointed as a patients' representator to the Technical Committee of the Health at the Presidency Office during the ongoing negotiation and peace process.

Klotilda Kosta holds the position of Director of Programs at Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management. She joined PA in 2005 as a Program Manager/ Trainer and from 2010 she holds the position of Director of Programs, responsible for the design, management and coordination of projects in the areas of Participatory Processes and Good Governance at Local Level; NPO Sector Leadership and Development, and Social Inclusion. She has an extensive professional experience of over 12 years in the civil society sector. Her key areas of expertise include: Design and Delivery of Capacity Building Programs for CSOs, Local Government, Public Institutions, Private Sector, and Community Groups; Women Empowerment and Gender Equality; Project Writing



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and Management; Participatory Governance; Anticorruption Practices and Strategies at Local Government; Design and conduction of Research, Surveys, Monitoring, and Needs Assessment; Organization and facilitation of Participatory Processes of multiple stakeholder.

MEP Piernicola Pedicini worked as Medical Physicist in Italy since 2008 as health Director until his recent election as member of the European Parliament. As a member of the ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) committee of the European Parliament, he took the initiative to draft the "Report on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance (2014/2207(INI))", approved in plenary by the European Parliament in May 2015.

Gábor Pogány holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry with three years of research experience in the USA. He has a daughter affected with Williams Syndrome (WS). In cooperation with others, Gábor established the Hungarian Williams Syndrome Association (HWSA) in 1998 to help to improve early diagnosis and provide information to patients. He initiated the foundation of the European Federation of Williams Syndrome Association (FEWS) as well as the Hungarian Rare Diseases Federation (HUFERDIS), or recently the Hungarian Alliance of Patient Organizations (HAPO). The first two organisations are members of EURORDIS. Gábor represented FEWS in the EURORDIS Council of European Federations (CEF) and Hungary in the Council of National Alliances (CNA). He has 25 years of professional experience, and personal commitment, in health and medical research non-governmental organisations in Hungary, Europe and the United States in the fields of cancer, genetic disorders and rare diseases. As the president of HUFERDIS, he is actively participating in European Commission funded projects and was an active player of the establishment of Hungarian National Patient Forum, resulting his election as the Coordinator of the Forum. He is involved in the development of a national plan for rare diseases in Hungary. He was an alternative patient representative of EURORDIS in the European Union Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases (EUCERD) and he is a member of Orphanet International Advisory Board.

Fioralba Profi represents the Young Leaders, a group of students and graduates which meet and debate here at Istituto Luigi Sturzo on European news, policies and topics, with the help of an expert in Politics and International relations.

Daniela Quaggia is a projects coordinator, graduated in Communication Science and with a 2nd level University Master degree in Institutional Communication. She has been working in Cittadinanzattiva for 4 years in the Institutional relation office; since January 2010 she is member of the Active Citizenship Network staff and project manager of EU project related on health and citizens involvement. He is also responsible of the networking activities and internal communication among the almost 100 EU partners of ACN, working for exchange of information, experience and good practices, involvement in project and political activities.

Charlotte Roffiaen is an Independent Consultant on European Affairs, as well as a former lawyer specialised in EU law. Since 2009, she has been working as External Consultant on European Strategy for the CISS, a French platform that acts as a representative of and an adviser to health care users, and that brings together 40 non-profit organisations with complementary approaches to health issues (associations of patients, disabled, consumers, family, older people, etc.). Over the years, Charlotte has been developing activities aimed at increasing the participation of the CISS in the EU health policy making, and at promoting the rights of patients and users at European level.

She has been involved in health issues since 2002, when she participated in the development of the European Charter of Patients' Rights as Director of Active Citizenship Network (ACN), and after that in the monitoring of the 14 Charter's rights. She also is among the promoters of the European Patients' Rights Day. Since June 2015, Charlotte also is the Regional Director of the Lymphoma Coalition Europe.



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Claudia Salvi has been, for more than 10 years, in charge of the communication of Department of the International Activities of FormezPA, a public-owned Association Centre for Services, Assistance, Studies and Training for the Modernisation of the PA subject to the control, supervision and inspection powers of Italy's Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Public Administration (DFP). She also worked as Communication Expert in different EU funded Twinning projects for supporting Information and Communication Staff of the Managing Authorities of Operational Programmes and of the Communication departments in the New Member States and in pre-accession countries.

At the moment she is the Coordinator of the Europe Direct Information Centre hosted by FormezPA an official EU information Centre for Italian Citizens.

Alceste Santuari (Ph.D. Law - Cantab) is a member of the European Association of Health Law and Senior Lecturer of Law and Economics - Law of Non Profit Organisations - International Health and Law at the University of Bologna in Italy. He is also the Secretary General of the new “European Association of patients and users of thermal centres”.

Olimpia Troili graduated in Philosophy and International Cooperation and Development. She is president of Alternativa Europea, a cultural association of federalists, mainly composed of students, graduates and young professionals from all around Europe.

Mariano Votta is Director of Active Citizenship Network and Responsible for European Affairs at Cittadinanzattiva. He has more than 10 years of experience in the field of protection of citizens’ rights, stakeholder engagement, communication and civic information. His was the idea to encourage and promote the Member of the European Parliament Interest Group “European Patients’ Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare” at the European Parliament during 2015.

*The debate is a part of the project **From Citizen Involvement to Policy Impact** funded under the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Commission. Partners of the project are non-profit organizations active in promoting citizens’ participation at European level from Albania, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Estonia, Italy, Romania, Spain, and Bulgaria*

