



**TOWARDS HIGHER PATIENT SAFETY IN EUROPEAN HOSPITALS.
Innovation in Hygiene and Sanification To Reduce Healthcare Associated Infections and
Antimicrobial Resistance**

EU TRAINING SEMINAR
4 February 2019 – 15:00-18:00

Mariano Votta, Director Active Citizenship Network

Welcome address

Good afternoon and welcome to everyone.

This training initiative is part of our commitment on the empowerment of civic and patients' associations, and it follows other similar initiatives that we have realized in the past months:

- In October we have organized a training initiative focused on vaccination;
- In November another one focused on the incremental innovation in generic drugs.
- Today we are here to enrich our know-how and consciousness about some extremely relevant aspects that affect patient safety, namely healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

I am extremely proud and happy about this kind of initiative. In fact, as some of you already know, recently we have felt the need to combine a public activity, in which we take into consideration the perspective of citizens in the process of policy making at the EU level, with a more reserved but necessary meeting to explore issues that are particularly significant to us.

I would like to thank Copma for its support, not only for this specific EU training seminar, but more in general for having gathered civic and patients' organizations to debate on a topic which is probably underestimated by public opinion: today there are leaders of 21 associations coming from 13 countries.

The purpose of this seminar is:

- to provide a selected number of leaders of patients' organizations and advocacy groups across Europe with an occasion to be empowered and an updated overview about healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance and their impact on public health;
- to become aware of the commitment provided by European institutions and experts in the field;
- to explore a concrete example on innovation coming from the private sector.

Last but not least, it will be interesting to share some initiatives carried out by civic associations.

So, to all my colleagues, thanks again for accepting our invitation. We have all travelled this far because we find this a valuable opportunity, and therefore I suggest you take advantage of this meeting to increase your knowledge on the topic and ask questions. After every presentation there will be enough time for questions, and of course the experts will be happy to answer and clarify your doubts.

As you know, this seminar will be followed by a public event tomorrow at the EU Parliament. During these two days, we would like to reinforce the message that ACN works to enhance associations' participation on the theme of patient safety and that now we are moving to practical actions at the EU level. Indeed, as you can imagine, our idea is to promote common activities for the coming months, and during the second part of this meeting we will discuss about them.

One last piece of information for our expert speakers: all the associations here present are committed to healthcare but, as you may imagine, the level of information about some specific topics could be different. So, please let's not give anything for granted. A special thanks to all the experts for their invaluable knowhow; we appreciate a lot your availability to be here today!

Many thanks to Brian Maguire, EURACTIV journalist that will moderate this afternoon's meeting. I wish you a fruitful training seminar.