



EUROPEAN PATIENTS' RIGHTS DAY 2022

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF A HEALTHY EUROPE

Taking part in the decision-making process on health priorities

20 – 21 April 2022 | 14:30 – 16:00 CEST

SESSION 2

The health mission within the National Recovery and Resilience Plans

Final remarks 21st April 2022

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Key messages and recommendations:

1. Personally, I would like to thank all the panelist very much, starting from the representative of OECD and of the Ministries of Health of Italy and France who have spoken today. I think that at the national level, we will have to map out tools and spaces for participation for the benefit of civil society bodies engaged in monitoring the progress of National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs). In this regard, in a few words, we are facing a lack of coherence between what has been stated and the reality. In fact, it is probably important to remember that the

agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2020 and drafted in the “Regulation (Eu) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility” includes a paragraph on the involvement of the social partners and civil society, among others. Article 18(4)(q) requires National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) to set out "a summary of the consultation process, conducted in accordance with the national legal framework of local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, for the preparation and, where available, the implementation of the plan and of how the inputs of the stakeholders are reflected in the plan".

The European Economic and Social Committee underlines that “the preparations to distribute huge amounts of money are taking place, sometimes behind closed doors and even more often with national governments, not including civil society enough. The participation of civil society can greatly contribute to the success of the EU Recovery Plans. If the EU Recovery Plan is properly implemented, it could turn an obvious political crisis into profound progress for a stronger economy”.

2. We strongly believe that the engagement of European citizens is key to improve the health system: we want to be heard because, as in any reconstruction, the involvement of a large number of active and aware social and civic actors is essential. Indeed, it is necessary to guarantee a leading role to the people, the communities, intermediate bodies such as Patients' Advocacy Groups (PAGs), citizens' organizations involved in healthcare issues and, more generally, to all actors that promote health as a common good.
3. For two years, healthcare systems had to focus their attention on Covid patients. However, it is now time to address the needs of those patients who suffered from delayed diagnoses, cancelled medical appointments, and postponed medical care. It is time to heal the EU healthcare with a Patient Recovery Plan (as already

underlined, for instance, by Medicines for Europe). There are doubts and concerns as to whether the "Mission of Health" of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) can reach this goal.

Follow up and possible next steps:

As always, in a pragmatic way, we will try to do our part:

1. Starting from the “follow the money” experience, we’d like to organize European training initiatives - addressed to leaders of patient and civic associations across Europe - focused on the main operational tools that allow citizens and civic society organizations to request and acquire information about data on health-related issues from National Institutions and public bodies.
 2. Concerning the progress of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs), we ask for periodic public updates between EU Institutions and Member States in the presence of social partners and civil society, a sort of “Conferenza dei Servizi” according to the Italian experience¹. We must avoid the risk of oblivion: we will try to keep up the attention by involving MEPs through the Interest Group “European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare” of which the co-chairs are Brando Benifei (S&D group), who has spoken today, and MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP group), who spoke yesterday, and whom I thank both.
 3. We will continue to keep in touch with the 38 associations with which we carried out in 18 European countries the Civic Survey on participation in health within the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs), in order to repeat it periodically.
- Finally, please let me remind you that this conference was realized with the support of Boehringer Ingelheim, Illumina, MSD, Teva and Viatrix, which I would like to thank.

¹ <https://www.diritto.it/la-conferenza-dei-servizi/>

- At the same time, please let me thank our moderator Brian Maguire, and our media partners: “Health Europe” and the publisher “SyncSci Publishing” of the international peer-reviewed journal “Advances in Health and Behavior”.
- Let me greet and thank with affection the many people across Europe who celebrated in these days at the local and national level the European Day and to we had news of many initiatives from Portugal to Sweden, from France to Cyprus, from the Azores Island to Spain with the commitment of Hospitals and PAGs. This celebration, now in its sixteenth edition, is so lived and participated that it represents an important heritage to preserve but also one from which to draw experiences and gain knowledge.
- As always, thank you to the staff of ACN (Daniela, Bianca, Maira, Maddalena, Elisa) and to our communications office.
- We will soon send out our newsletter, comprehensive of all the documents and outputs of this two-days conference.

4. With the occasion, please allow to me to remember our next appointments:

- a. In the context of the European Immunization week, next 29th of April 2022, from 14.30 to 16.30 Central European Summer Time (CEST) we’ll organize an EU training seminar focus on the value of Adult Vaccination,
 - b. Next 24 of May, as already remembered yesterday, we’ll organize another EU training seminar focus on Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products.
- Both, as always are free and opened to leaders of civic and patient associations across Europe interested on the topics.

I thank you all again and stay safe. Goodbye from Rome.