

Programme

Agenda

This agenda is a draft version and may be updated as the programme develops.

Day 1. Situation analysis and preparedness needs

12:00 – 13:30 Registration and lunch

13:30 – 13:45 Opening remarks

13:45 – 14:00 Keynote speech

Plenary 1, Panel debate

14:00 – 15:15 COVID-19, 5 years later: have our healthcare systems recovered?

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break (and transition to workshops)

15:45 – 17:00 ***Workshops***

Workshop 1

AMR preparedness: how healthcare systems and patient organisations can work together

Workshop 2

Healthcare delivery, public health, patient care, and the environment: a solvable equation?

Workshop 3

Health and wealth: can the EU budget drive a resilient future?

17:00 – 17:45 Intervention from high level speaker

17:45 – 18:00 Closing remarks

18:00 – 19:00 Networking Cocktail

19:00 – 22:00 Dinner

Day 2. What tools do we have to ensure preparedness?

08:00 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee		
09:00 – 09:15	Opening remarks		
09:15 – 10:30	<i>Plenary 2, Panel debate</i>		
	Human-centred innovation: rethinking care in the age of digital health and AI		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break (and transition to workshops)		
11:00 – 12:15	<i>Workshops</i>		
	<i>Workshop 4</i>	<i>Workshop 5</i>	<i>Workshop 6</i>
	No one left behind: equity and solidarity in cross-border crisis response	Value in crisis: rethinking what matters in health	Addressing access needs through innovative models for pricing and reimbursement
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch (and transition to Plenary)		
13:30 – 15:30	<i>Plenary 3, Panel debate</i>		
	Building a culture of patient-centered innovation		
15:30 – 16:00	Keynote speech		
16:00 – 16:30	Closing remarks		

Date and Location

The Congress will be an **in-person event, taking place on 26 and 27 November 2025 at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, in Brussels, Belgium**. At this stage, hybrid participation is not under consideration.

Rationale and Added Value

The European Patients' Forum (EPF) is committed to leading patient advocacy and meaningful patient organisation participation throughout Europe, supporting our members and communities, and contributing to initiatives that promote patient involvement in healthcare systems, policy and research.

Healthcare is rapidly evolving through advances in digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI), and the emergence of new medical technologies that challenge traditional regulatory frameworks and value assessment models. At the same time, 5 years after the start of the COVID pandemic, Europe continues to face significant health challenges, from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to the health impacts of climate change and environmental impact of healthcare, while budgetary constraints threaten continued investment in healthcare systems. Along with geopolitical and security threats, this shifting environment makes preparedness for future health, economic, climate or geopolitical crises imperative, and proactive strategies to strengthen healthcare systems even more urgent.

EPF will build its bi-annual Congress around the central question of: *How can we build a more resilient and secure future for our European healthcare systems?* Building on the learnings of EPF's ongoing work, of previous EPF campaigns and Congresses, and as part of our reflection on our next Strategic Plan, this year's event will examine health systems' preparedness from a multifaceted, patient-centred perspective. More specifically, it will focus on:

- The preparedness and readiness of healthcare systems to withstand cross-border crises.
- The transformative power of digital technologies and the challenge of integrating AI into healthcare systems to ensure it contributes to more person-centred, high-quality care.
- The threat of AMR and the collaboration across diseases, sectors and countries it requires.
- The integration of value-based healthcare in times of budget constraints.
- The interlinkage between health and the environment, and its growing impact on patients.
- The critical role of patient organisations in supporting and helping direct healthcare transformation.
- The power of disruptive innovation in pricing, innovative methods and delivery of care.

The Congress will also showcase advocacy initiatives at both EU and national levels, which empower EPF members with the essential tools and knowledge to participate in impactful dialogues with policymakers, industry leaders, and healthcare professionals.

Objectives

The general objective of the EPF Congress is to discuss topics that are important to patient communities, and propose, in that discussion, a patient-centred perspective. Specific objectives of the 2025 Congress include:

- Establishing a patient-centric perspective on health systems' resilience and preparedness for future pressures.
- Emphasising the need for strong and coordinated health policies to ensure preparedness and health system readiness.
- Empowering patient advocacy at all levels and patient engagement in crisis preparedness discussions.
- Convening key stakeholders - patients, policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, and industry representatives - in a collaborative environment to co-create possible solutions to present and future challenges.
- Showcasing best practices and successful patient-led initiatives in preparedness strategies.

At the Congress, EPF will also present the results of the first-ever Patient Involvement Barometer, which will benchmark patient organisations' participation in health systems across European countries, highlight best practices, and make recommendations for improving patient participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of health policies.