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## PACT WORK PLAN 2018

DRAFT

PATIENT ACCESS PARTNERSHIP  
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## PACT WORK PLAN 2018

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## ABOUT PACT

**The Patient Access Partnership** is a patient-led multi-stakeholder network bringing together patients, the medical and public health community, industry and the European and member states policy makers and institutions, in order to develop and move forward on innovative solutions to reduce inequities in access to quality healthcare in the European Union.

### VISION

The Patient Access Partnership enables different health stakeholders to join forces to develop, drive and propose to the EC and the Member States sustainable solutions to ensure equitable patient access to quality healthcare in the EU. Stakeholders will actively participate in delivering these solutions.

### MISSION

The activities of the patient access partnership are patient-focused. Information and knowledge transfer are a key requirement to identify gaps in and measure access to quality healthcare between and within Member States. The Partnership will encourage the development of tools and policies to monitor and measure equity of access in Member States on an on-going basis. Through holistic collaboration with relevant EU-led or national initiatives, the Partnership will provide a much-needed space for creativity, coherence and collaboration and propose sustainable solutions.

### STRATEGIC GOALS

- Introducing EU mechanisms for accelerating access throughout Europe and support the member states
- Support EU legislation on standards for increasing quality of healthcare and access
- Identify barriers and gaps in access across EU – encourage the development of a tool to measure access in EU28
- Explore innovative approaches to increasing access in Europe – e.g. innovative pricing system to improve access to innovation and enhance competitive environment

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate the dialogue between European and national health stakeholders according to the mission
- To identify key hurdles in access to healthcare for patients in a holistic way
- To assess gaps in access to quality healthcare within EU member states
- To collaborate with relevant EU-led or national initiatives
- To develop innovative and sustainable solutions

## OUR INTRINSIC VALUES

We believe that patients across the EU are entitled to equal opportunity to enjoy the highest attainable quality of health services and care.

### 1. PATIENT-CENTRED

We are driven by patient-centred, non-discriminatory approach to healthcare policies which uphold the right to health for all.

### 2. HOLISTIC

We employ a holistic approach in addressing access to healthcare which recognises the importance of all five elements of access, as defined by PACT: *availability, adequacy, accessibility, affordability, appropriateness*.

### 3. COLLABORATIVE

We endorse a meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement approach to ensure consideration of various perspectives on access to healthcare in a spirit of mutual recognition and understanding.

### 4. INFORMATIVE

We believe in dialogue, cooperation and exchange of best practices as a means to identify challenges, transfer knowledge and avoid overlaps in efforts to address the disparities in access across the EU.

### 5. INNOVATIVE

We are committed to working together to develop inclusive, innovative and sustainable solutions for improving the coherence between EU-led and national policies on healthcare.

### 6. TRANSPARENT

We conduct activities in accordance with the principles of accountability and transparency of governance, funding and communication.

PACT WORK PLAN 2018 SUMMARY

**MISSION**

The Partnership will encourage the development of tools and policies to monitor and measure equity of access in Member States on an on-going basis. Through holistic collaboration with relevant EU-led or national initiatives, the Partnership will provide a much-needed space for creativity, coherence and collaboration and propose sustainable solutions.

**Priority 1**

**INSPIRE**

Improve awareness on existing and explore new approaches for improving access to healthcare

**Priority 2**

**GUIDE**

Support the efforts to maintain the issue of equitable access high on the EU policy agenda

**Priority 3**

**EXCHANGE**

Build a sustainable organisation which supports, develops and utilizes the Partner's potential

**Output**

1. Country stakeholder meetings

**Output**

1. Meeting(s) during the EU Presidencies (BG, AT, RO)
2. PACT / MEP IG on Access EP events
3. Representation in events

**Output**

1. Methodology for Partners' involvement
2. Expand PACT network
3. Internal exchange channels
4. Administrative capacity

## PRIORITY 1: INSPIRE

### 1. HOLD COUNTRY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

The discussions among the participants at the PACT Regional Conference (2016) clearly outlined the need for cooperation – cross-sectoral collaboration between health, social and financial authorities; multi stakeholder partnership within countries, and multi-level coherence – between EU institutions and national level authorities.

In view of the aforementioned, PACT took the initiative to increase cooperation between policy-makers and stakeholders within the countries from the region by holding a small-scale country stakeholder events. PACT sought and received engagement on behalf of European Commission representatives, country-level EU Semester officers, national authorities and the PACT local partners and stakeholders.

In 2017, PACT held two country stakeholder meetings entitled “Patient-Centred Roundtable on Working Together for Accessible Health”:

1. The first PACT Country stakeholder meeting was held in Lithuania (June 8, Lithuanian Parliament) with the partnership of the Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition (POLA) and under the auspices of the Lithuanian Minister of Health, Prof. Dr. Aurelijus Veryga.
2. The second PACT Country stakeholder meeting was held in Romania (November 20, Bucharest) under the auspices of the Romanian Minister of Health, Mr. Florian Bodog.

The purpose of these meetings is to:

- Follow-up on the conclusions of the PACT Regional Conference and encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration models and best-practice exchange to improve the frequency, quality and scope of communication of the national actors in the healthcare field
- Seek and promote the need for involvement of national stakeholders in the discussions over the CSRs in preparation of the Annual Growth Survey in the framework of the European Semester
- Discuss opportunities for more formal stakeholder cooperation at local level and explore possibilities for structured stakeholder input to the EU Semester consultations

This model for national engagement is effective, successful and appreciated by the national stakeholders. This is why in 2018 PACT will continue this initiative by organising up to two other events, depending on capacity. Countries to be considered (and further discussed) are:

- Poland
- Portugal

#### *Output:*

1. Two country country-tables
2. Two meeting reports with recommendations
3. Two press-releases
4. Two dedicated webpages on PACT’s website with meeting materials

*Timeline:* Q3 / Q4

## PRIORITY 2: GUIDE

### 1. MEETING(S) DURING THE EU PRESIDENCIES (BG, AT, RO)

The challenges that Bulgaria, CEE and the European Union more generally are facing concern the rising societal inequities in access to high quality healthcare and the growing needs of healthcare systems. Sustainability, accessibility and quality of healthcare systems have been in the spotlight on the European agenda in the recent years. Ageing population, increased morbidity but also increasing life expectancy and promising medical innovation tackling unmet medical needs present affordability challenge especially for CEE countries. Increased investment in healthcare and improved effectiveness of healthcare systems focusing on better health outcomes for patients is needed.

The 2018 Bulgarian semester of the EU Presidency offers the natural opportunity for stronger impetus on health policy at EU level, and leverage on the need for enhanced EU cooperation for high quality access to healthcare for all patients across Europe.

In this context, PACT proposed the organisation of an event under the auspices of the Bulgarian Presidency to highlight that health must remain within the domain and competency of health experts rather than integrated in a broader policy realm. The overarching theme of the conference could be “The future of health in the EU” with a key message that cooperation is key to better healthcare results in the EU countries.

The conference should resemble the multi-stakeholder format of two past conferences: the one in V  
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By virtue of its mandate and broad Partner representation that they constitute, the Steering Committee members of PACT will take part in the organizing committee, with the participation of a representative of the Bulgarian Ministry of Health. The Bulgarian Ministry of Health has provided an informal approval of a proposed date of the conference: 31 May – 1 June 2018.

A first meeting of the Working Group took place in early November. Follow-up meetings are to be organized in Q1-Q2.

#### Output:

1. Event
2. Meeting report
3. Press-release
4. Dedicated webpage on PACT’s website with meeting materials

**Timeline:** Q2 / Q4

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## 2. SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION OF (AT LEAST) TWO EVENTS OF THE MEP IG ON ACCESS

In 2017, the MEP Interest Group on Access in cooperation with PACT held two major events in the European Parliament (June and November):

1. **“Future Scenarios for the EU: What role for Healthcare?”** (Jun 27) to discuss the European added-value in the area of health and the possibilities to sustain cooperation in future in view of the concerns following the White Paper on the Future of Europe;
2. **“State of Health in the EU: Where can the EU make a difference?”** (Nov 28) to present the Country Health Profiles and Companion report, published as part of the Commission’s ‘State of Health in the EU’ initiative and developed in combination with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Given the significant interest and positive feedback with respect to the MEP events, PACT will continue supporting the MEP Interest Group in favour of supporting EU legislation on standards for increasing quality of healthcare and access. The topics will be confirmed in accordance with the most relevant issues at stake in consultation with Workstream Ensuring Access is high on the Agenda.

### *Output:*

1. Two events of the MEP Interest Group on Access, organised with the support of PACT
2. Two reports
3. Two press-releases

*Timeline:* Q2 / Q4

## 3. PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

In 2017, PACT representatives have been active participants as both speakers and attendees at strategic, policy and public events across the EU. This should continue to be the case as these are opportunities to share concerns with other stakeholders, raise pertinent issues of access to the attention of the wider healthcare community and explore other aspects that PACT can take into account in future activities.

*Timeline:* Q1 - Q4

## PRIORITY 3: EXCHANGE

Since its establishment, the Patient Access Partnership has been working with different stakeholders to encourage discussions on sustainable solutions to improve access to quality healthcare across Europe. Ever since then, our most valuable asset has been the continuous engagement of our Partners who have contributed to PACT's strategic direction and related activities through the three Workstreams of: WS Mapping access, WS Ensuring access is high on the agenda and WS Measurement tool.

With due respect to the contribution and expertise provided by our Partners, at the end of 2017 we conducted a survey among our Partners to:

- Assess PACT focus areas and activities for 2018 onwards
- Ascertain partner engagement interest
- Identify partners' priorities and identify common grounds of interest

The answers of the survey informed the discussion during the Partners Assembly 2018 and shaped the vision for longer-term oriented activities under Priority 3, as outlined below:

### **1. REVISE THE METHODOLOGY FOR PARTNERS' INVOLVEMENT**

To continue building a sustainable organisation that supports, develops and utilizes the Partner's potential, we will need to revisit the working procedures for collecting input and receiving timely feedback from the Partners. The ultimate goal is to integrate and stimulate the use of mechanisms for best-practice exchange between the Partners.

### **2. EXPAND THE PARTNERS' NETWORK**

The Partners of PACT have been a driving force, a source of expertise and the voice of various healthcare stakeholders. It is thus important to expand the Partners' network to ensure broader representation of perspectives. To do so, PACT Secretariat will employ various mechanisms, including face-to-face meetings to present our work and seek synergies with other EU organisations.

### **3. INTEGRATE INTERNAL CHANNELS FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN PARTNERS**

Apart from expanding the network, PACT needs to explore the possibility to integrate internal channels for dissemination of key information materials to ensure timely interventions at the EU and national levels. This will be a strategy for more effective and sustainable involvement of our Partners, allowing them to see value in their engagement with PACT in, for example, exploring new organisations to partner with in general or project-specific terms.

### **4. IMPROVE THE INTERNAL HUMAN CAPACITY TO MATCH THE INCREASING WORKLOAD**

To meet the growing workload and expectations, it is important to ensure that PACT has allocated the appropriate capacity to achieve optimal results. More specifically, it is important to broaden the expertise of the organisation by involving additional human capacity for administrative, policy and communications-related tasks.

**ANNEX**

**PACT Activity Schedule 2018**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>PRIORITY 1: INSPIRE</b>				
Output 1.1. Country stakeholder meetings			x	x
<b>PRIORITY 2: GUIDE</b>				
Output 2.1. Meeting(s) during the EU Presidencies		x		x
Output 2.2. PACT / MEP IG on Access EP events		x		x
Output 2.3. Representation in events	x	x	x	x
<b>PRIORITY 3: EXCHANGE</b>				
O	x	x		
Output 3.2. Expand PACT network	x	x	x	x
Output 3.3. Internal exchange channels	x	x	x	x
Output 3.4. Seek additional administrative capacity	x	x		