

REPORT  
**PACT** PARTNERS ASSEMBLY 2017

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*5 February 2018  
Brussels*

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## 1. Welcome

Mr. Stanimir Hazardzhiev (SH), Secretary-General of the Patient Access Partnership, welcomed the Partners of PACT and expressed sincere gratitude for their support and cooperation in PACT's activities in the past year. Looking retrospectively on 2017, he affirmed that the importance of cooperation between stakeholders was and will be the key driving force to ensure that health remains a priority on the EU agenda. He encouraged further collaboration in favour of achieving better access and thanked all Partners for their commitment, responsiveness and support in making 2017 a truly dynamic and productive year for PACT.

## 2. Annual Report

In 2017, PACT held two country stakeholder meetings entitled “Patient-Centred Roundtable on Working Together for Accessible Health” under the auspices of the respective Ministries of Health – the first one in [Lithuania](#) (8 June), together with the Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition (POLA) and the second one in [Romania](#) (20 November) with the Coalition of Organisations of Patients with Chronic Diseases in Romania (COPAC), a member of EPF.

The meetings aimed to gather policy-makers and the healthcare community for increasing cooperation between them to improve access to quality healthcare for patients. The country stakeholder meetings were initiated by PACT as follow-up events to the PACT Regional Conference (2016, Sofia) where 150 stakeholders from Central and Eastern Europe agreed that the European Semester process should better reflect the country-level situation. One way to achieve this is to allow patients and health stakeholders to participate in consultations for the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs).

In February 2017, the European Patients' Forum (as consortium leader) and the Patient Access Partnership (as a consortium member) submitted a proposal in response to the call for a tender procedure SANTE/2016/B1/071 – “Towards a fairer and more effective measurement of access to healthcare across the EU”. To our regret, our tender was rejected. Nonetheless, PACT remained committed to the issue and repeatedly expressed interest to be invited to the expert consultations to the project. As a result, PACT was approached and invited to contribute in the course of consultations which will take place in 2018.

As in previous years, PACT supported the MEP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare in organizing two events at the European Parliament. The first [meeting](#) addressed the role of healthcare in future scenarios for the EU and put forward views on how to strengthen and improve it. This led to a follow-up initiative with more than 80 Members of the European Parliament supporting a [statement](#) calling for continued EU action in the field of health and enhanced cooperation between EU Member States – a statement which triggered positive [feedback](#) from President Juncker. The second [event](#) was dedicated to the ‘State of Health in the EU’ – an initiative of the European Commission and OECD which goal is to improve the evidence for more meaningful health policies in the EU Member States.

PACT also joined the European Patients' Forum (EPF) in the campaign “Universal Health Coverage for All” and participated in the consultation of the EPF Working Group on Access for the development of the [EPF Roadmap to Achieving Universal Health Coverage for All](#) by 2030.

### 3. Accounts 2017

In 2016, PACT received funding from EFPIA, Medicines for Europe, MedTech, COCIR and EUCOPE. As per the statutes, PACT has not received financial resources from individual pharmaceutical companies.

As confirmed during the previous Partners' Assembly, the leftover amount from the PACT Regional Conference in Bulgaria was used for follow-up activities of the conference, namely the country stakeholder meetings (two more are planned to take place in 2018). The country stakeholder meetings were organized also with the financial support of the two local Partners – POLA and COPAC who co-funded the events.

PACT is grateful for the in-kind contribution from the MEP Interest Group on Access in the light of the events, held at the European Parliament; the European Patients' Forum for providing technical support to PACT in Brussels but also extensive time contribution of the team for continuous conceptual and policy support to PACT's activities; to POLA Lithuania and COPAC Romania as the two local partners who contributed in-kind to the organisation of the country stakeholder meetings.

The spending on project activities in 2017 was performed according to the planned Budget 2017 as approved at the previous Partners' Assembly (January 30, 2017). The difference in planned / spent budget with respect to the project activities (see annex), is the result of the fact that the projects Universal Access, next phase of Measurement tool and Mapping access exercise were not initiated in 2017 for two major reasons: the work under Measurement tool and Mapping Access was used as a basis for the proposal put forward in the context of the Pilot Project call for tender Towards a fairer and more effective measurement of access to healthcare across the EU (N° SANTE/2016/B1/071) to which PACT applied; secondly, the initiation of these (and all projects of PACT) are subject to additional fundraising activity which was not secured this year in the hope that the Pilot Project application would have been successful.

The spending with respect to the core activities in 2017 was performed according to the estimated budget. A major expenditure in 2017 was the amount allocated for consultancy services for the call for tender (see annex).

### 4. Procedural

During this year's Partners' Assembly, PACT has to appoint new members of the Steering Committee of PACT (appointed for the period 2018 – 2020).

SH expressed gratitude for the expertise and enthusiasm that the previous Steering Committee has dedicated to PACT over the past years: with leadership, insight and understanding they have been a stepping stone for what we have been able to achieve together. Thanks to their efforts and consistent cooperation, PACT has become a recognizable partner at EU level.

As a result of call for nominations process, the following Partners were put forward as nominees for the next Steering Committee members:

- **Patient organisations**
  - Anders Olauson (EPF – founding member)
  - Stanimir Hasardzhiev (NPO – founding member)
- **Policy-makers**
  - Andrey Kovatchev MEP (MEP Interest Group on Access)
- **Academia**

- Kyriakos Souliotis (University of Peloponnese)
- **Public Health NGOs**
  - Alyna Smith (PICUM)
  - Mary Lynne Van Poelgeest-Pomfret (EFGCP)
- **Umbrella trade associations (on a rotational basis)**
  - Elizabeth Kuiper (EFPIA)
  - Kate O'Regan (Medicines for Europe)
  - Tanja Valentin (MedTech Europe)
  - Nicole Denjoy (COCIR)
  - Delphine Roulland (EUCOPE)

All nominees were appointed with no objections.

It was noted that since Birgit Beger left the position, there has been no appointment for the position of a Treasurer. Annabel Seebohm, Secretary-General of CPME, volunteered to provide technical advice in the financial matters of PACT, if need be.

\* Healthcare professionals: as there was no nomination for this category, PACT secretariat was mandated to take additional actions to explore a potential nominee for this category.

## 5. Draft Work Plan and Budget 2018

SH presented the Work Plan 2018 of PACT, underlying that it is primarily based on the outcomes of the activities conducted in 2017 and is directed towards implementation strategies.

The Work Plan is divided into main three areas "Inspire, Guide, Exchange".

The draft Work Plan 2018 will take into considerations the comments received from Partners and will be finalised a.s.a.p.

## 6. Special introductions from the EU institutions

Mr. Sylvain Giraud, Head of Unit, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission, highlighted access as a key issue, welcomed PACT's efforts in partnership with stakeholders and EU institutions and expressed commitment for continued cooperation with PACT on access-related initiatives.

He then briefly spoke of the ongoing and future activities of DG SANTE, such as:

- **The EU Pillar of Social Rights:** integrated in the EU Semester process, this tool affirms the centrality of access to affordable, timely and quality care.
- **The Social Fairness Package:** aims to include also an initiative on social protection for vulnerable populations (to be launched on the 7th of March)
- **The EU Semester:** "The State of Health in the EU" has supplemented the EU Semester process by providing evidence-based data on unmet medical need as indicator for access to healthcare. On March 7th, the country-specific reports will be published, with Country Specific Recommendations to be adopted in May 2018. Last year, six Member States received comments in terms of access to healthcare. It is likely that many countries will once again receive health-related recommendations.
- **EU Structural Support Service:** Being a long-term priority of the European Commission, it intends to help Member States with practical solutions for designing responsive and accessible health systems.

- **State of Health in the EU:** Provides data, builds evidence and offers ideas for common tools that Members States who face similar challenges can explore and apply. Cooperation on HTA is the most notable example of this which led to a legislative proposal issued by the Commission.
- **Expert Panel on Investing in Health:** two health-related publications are published: on setting benchmarks to identify gaps in access and on primary care performance.
- **Pilot Project on Measuring Access to Healthcare in the EU:** a project of the European Commission aimed at improving existing indicators for measuring access to healthcare. Stakeholder consultation will be included as a milestone in the working process.

Mr. Giraud added that in view of the consultation on the next MFF post 2020 (and given the expected policy reforms as a result of BREXIT), stakeholder cooperation should be stronger than ever to ensure appropriate place for public health policies in this process.

## 7. Workshop

### *Background:*

*During the PACT Workstreams' Meeting (8 November 2017), the Partners concluded that an in-depth discussion over the priorities for PACT ahead should take place in future. A consensus was reached that PACT Partners should be consulted a.s.a.p., during the Partners' Assembly, on how and where they see the added-value of PACT so that the limited capacity can be used as efficiently as possible for the right projects that promise to be most useful to the Partners.*

*To do so, the participants decided to prepare a survey (Katie Gallagher (EPF) and Nikos Manaras (Acumen Public Affairs) volunteered to help Lilyana in drafting the survey (see Annex) which aimed to:*

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

*Based on the feedback received, PACT conducted a workshop and asked its Partners to split into 3 groups during the Partners' Assembly to discuss:*

- 1. Work Plan 2018 proposals – with the option to reshape some of the proposals or add other specific activities;*
- 2. Partners' engagement strategy – what would be of added value for our Partners in terms of their contribution to PACT's work and how they see a successful exchange environment with other PACT Partners;*
- 3. The future strategic direction of PACT – what role for PACT they see in the long-term.*

### **WORKING GROUP 1 – Work Plan 2018**

The participants suggested the following topics to be considered for the conference "The Future of Health in the EU":

- Internal market requires regulation in health.
- Macroeconomic coordination – aging, social models, growing public expenditure.
- Cooperation in knowledge, guidelines, skills.

It was suggested that the PACT Country Stakeholder meetings have high value for PACT and need to be a continuous long-term initiative of PACT. However, several suggestions for consideration were put forward:

- It is important to increase the commitment of MEPs to the outcomes of the meetings – to raise awareness and address these issues at EU level;
- Other topics that could be included in the focus of the event are the Social Pillar and Multiannual Financial Framework;
- It is important to increase the engagement of PACT Partners in the organization process of the events so that they are duly informed and involved in the preparatory stages well in advance of the meetings.

### *WORKING GROUP 2: PACT Partners' engagement strategy*

The multi-stakeholder approach that PACT fosters is important; however:

- To facilitate the dialogue among different Partners, it is important to identify messages that we all agree upon. Yet, such effort would require a structured communication approach. One way to do it might be to become part of the EU Health Policy Platform where thematic issues are discussed regularly – most of PACT Partners are members of it.
- However, using another platform for PACT-related matters might not be the best approach for cooperating with the Partners; it is therefore interesting to see if PACT Partners would agree to discuss internally what access means to them and how they see the future of better access to healthcare; this will inform a targeted discussion with the PACT Partners for the purpose of finding a common ground to work together on in future.

### *WORKING GROUP 3: The future strategic direction of PACT*

Two key priorities were identified as long-term objectives of PACT:

1. Exchange
2. Improve access

To promote these goals more effectively, PACT will need to work on issues such as:

- Access indicators
- Access measurement at Member State-level
- Financial mechanisms for actions at the EU level

To do so, it is important to develop a long-term strategy of PACT with concrete milestones:

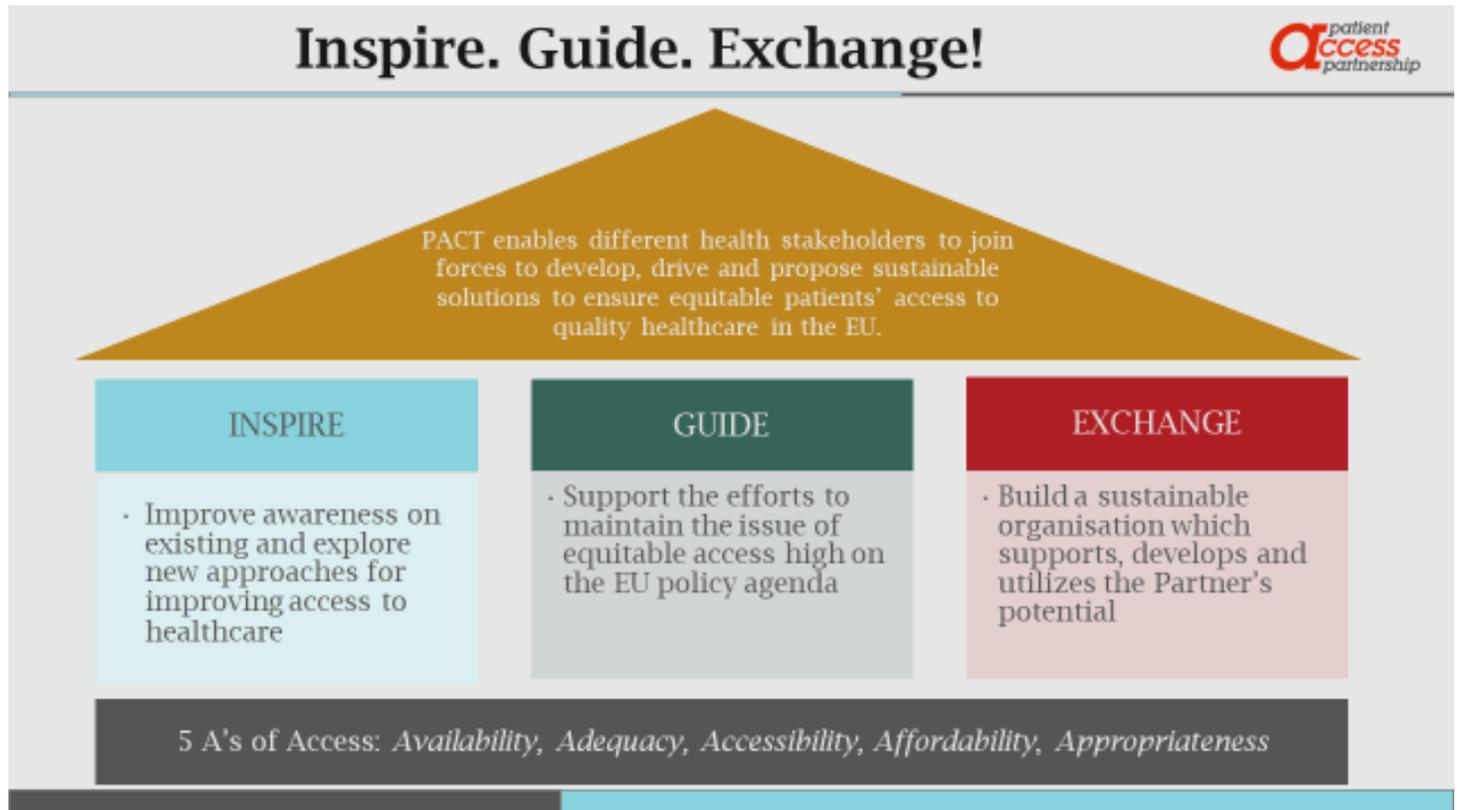
- Identify shared values among Partners (e.g. better harmonization at the EU level, improving the quality standards for care delivery, change of Treaty of the EU to include health, etc.)
- Develop evidence base to initiate a meaningful debate

## Annex

### PACT PARTNER'S ASSEMBLY AGENDA

- 13:00 – 13:15** 1. **Welcoming remarks**
- 13:15 – 14:00** 2. **Annual Report and Accounts 2017**
- Related documents:*
- MEP Interest Group / PACT event [“State of Health in the EU: Where can the EU make a difference?”](#) (Nov 28, EP)
  - MEP Interest Group / PACT event [“Future Scenarios for the EU: What role for Healthcare?”](#) (June 27, EP)
  - [Statement](#) on the future engagement of the EU in healthcare
  - [Letter](#) from President Juncker on MEP Statement
  - Patient-Centred Roundtable on Working Together for Accessible Health: [Lithuania](#)
  - Patient-Centred Roundtable on Working Together for Accessible Health: [Romania](#)
- 14:00 – 14:30** 3. **Procedural**
- Appointment of new Steering Committee members (term 2018-2020)
- Related documents:*
- 1) [Constitution](#) of PACT
- 14:30 – 14:45** Coffee break
- 14:45 – 15:30** 4. **Draft Work Plan and Budget 2018**
- 15:30 – 15:45** 5. **Special introductions from the EU institutions:**
- Mr. Sylvain Giraud, Head of Unit, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission
- 15:45 – 17:00** 6. **Workshop: “PACT: Partners’ Engagement in Future Activities” and feedback**
- 17:00 –** 7. **Closing remarks**

## Work Plan Overview



## Accounts 2017

## Income / Expenditure



INCOME	RES '15	RES '16	RES '17
<b>GRANTS</b>			
EFPIA	120 000 €	30 000 €	30 000 €
Medicines for Europe	- €	20 000 €	20 000 €
MedTech Europe	- €	10 000 €	10 000 €
COCIR	- €	7 500 €	7 500 €
EUCOPE	- €	- €	3 350 €
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>120 000 €</b>	<b>67 500 €</b>	<b>70 860 €</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>91 529 €</b>	<b>59 716 €</b>	<b>72 179 €</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>28 471 €</b>	<b>36 256 €</b>	<b>34 937 €</b>

Non-industry contribution:  
in kind and in cash

PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTION	RES '15	RES '16	RES '17
<b>MEP Interest Group on Access (MEP events)</b>			
Venue	9 600 €	9 600 €	9 600 €
Catering	1 650 €	600 €	600 €
Travel & Accommodation	7 800 €	- €	- €
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>19 050 €</b>	<b>10 200 €</b>	<b>10 200 €</b>
<b>National Patients' Organisation - Bulgaria</b>			
PACT Regional Conference	- €	148 238 €	- €
PACT Country Stakeholder Meetings	- €	- €	12 714 €
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>148 238 €</b>	<b>12 714 €</b>
<b>European Patients' Forum</b>			
Venue	- €	4 200 €	1 800 €
Equipment	- €	1 400 €	800 €
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>5 600 €</b>	<b>2 600 €</b>
<b>COPAC Romania (Country Stakeholder Meeting)</b>			
Accommodation	- €	- €	300 €
Printing costs	- €	- €	350 €
Simultaneous translation	- €	- €	1 800 €
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>2 250 €</b>
<b>POLA Lithuania (Country Stakeholder Meeting)</b>			
Venue	- €	- €	600 €
Equipment	- €	- €	200 €
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>- €</b>	<b>800 €</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19 050 €</b>	<b>162 036 €</b>	<b>28 564 €</b>

## Expenditure 2017: Core activities



ITEM	BUDGET '17 (Est.)	EXPENDITURE '17
<b>MEETINGS</b>		
Workstream "Mapping Exercise" x 2 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	3 000 €	1 500 €
Workstream "Measurement Tool" x 2 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	3 000 €	- €
Workstream "Ensuring Access on the Agenda" x 2 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	3 000 €	- €
Steering group meetings x 4 (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	5 000 €	1 500 €
Meetings at EP (Interest Group) x 2 (venue, equipment, catering, speakers, materials, reports, travel and accommodation)	6 000 €	5 000 €
Partnership Assembly Meeting (venue, equipment, catering, speakers, materials, travel and accommodation)	7 000 €	3 300 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27 000 €</b>	<b>11 300 €</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>		
Staff support costs (salary of coordinator, accountancy)	26 000 €	26 000 €
Office sublet (incl. telephone, equipment)	13 000 €	13 000 €
Representation (travel and accommodation)	15 000 €	7 000 €
Consultancy services (Pilot Project)	12 000 €	14 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>66 000 €</b>	<b>60 000 €</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Website / social media (contents development, website monthly maintenance fee, printouts, etc)	2 000 €	500 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 000 €</b>	<b>500 €</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>5 000 €</b>	<b>400 €</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 000 €</b>	<b>72 200 €</b>

## Expenditure 2017: Project activities



PROJECTS	BUDGET '17 (Est.)	EXPENDITURE '17	SOURCE
<b>COUNTRY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS</b>			
4 country meetings (venue, equipment, catering, logistics, reports)	28 000 €	8 518 €	Expenditure for 2 events
Representation (travel & accommodation)	10 000 €	4 046 €	
Interpretation services	4 000 €	3 200 €	
Contingency	2 000 €	- €	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>44 000 €</b>	<b>15 764 €</b>	
<b>PACT EXPERT PANEL ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS</b>			
2 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, logistics)	10 000 €	- €	
Representation (travel & accommodation)	4 000 €	- €	
Remuneration (10 experts & 2 rapporteurs)	5 000 €	- €	
Final (extensive) report (drafting, editing and design)	5 000 €	- €	
Printing and dissemination of report	3 000 €	- €	
Contingency	2 000 €	- €	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>29 000 €</b>	<b>- €</b>	
<b>NEXT PHASE OF MEASUREMENT TOOL OF ACCESS</b>			
Preparation (modifications and finalisation of questionnaire - phase 1, literature review)	1 000 €	- €	
Approval (preparation and communication of questionnaire - phase 2)	2 000 €	- €	
Validation (on-line platform, monitoring, data analysis, presentation of results, modifications, final data analysis)	17 000 €	- €	
Follow-up (paper publication, presentation of results)	5 000 €	- €	
Contingency	2 000 €	- €	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>27 000 €</b>	<b>- €</b>	
<b>MAPPING ACCESS EXERCISE</b>			
2 meetings: launch and follow-up (venue, equipment, catering, logistics)	10 000 €	- €	
Representation (travel & accommodation)	2 000 €	- €	
Final report (drafting, editing and design)	2 000 €	- €	
Contingency	2 000 €	- €	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16 000 €</b>	<b>- €</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116 000 €</b>	<b>15 764 €</b>	

## Budget 2018

## Budget 2018: Core activities



ITEM	BUDGET '18 (Est.)
<b>MEETINGS</b>	
Workstream "Mapping Exercise" x 1 meeting (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	1 500 €
Workstream "Measurement Tool" x 1 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	1 500 €
Workstream "Ensuring Access on the Agenda" x 1 meetings (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	1 500 €
Steering group meetings x2 (venue, equipment, catering, travel and accommodation)	2 500 €
Meetings at EP (Interest Group) x2 (venue, equipment, catering, speakers, materials, reports, travel and accommodation)	8 000 €
Partnership Assembly Meeting (venue, equipment, catering, speakers, materials, travel and accommodation)	4 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19 000 €</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>	
Staff support costs	26 000 €
Office sublet (incl. telephone, equipment)	13 000 €
Representation (travel and accommodation)	15 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>54 000 €</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
Website / social media (contents development, website monthly maintenance fee, printouts, etc)	1 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 000 €</b>
Contingency	5 000 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79 000 €</b>
BALANCE 2017	34 937 €
GRANTS 2018 (Est.)	62 500 €
BALANCE 2018 (Est.)	18 437 €

## Budget 2018: Project activities



PROJECTS	BUDGET '18 (Est.)
<b>COUNTRY ROUND-TABLES IN SELECTED EU COUNTRIES</b>	
2 country meetings (venue, equipment, catering, logistics)	10 000 €
Representation (travel & accommodation)	5 000 €
2 reports (drafting, editing and design)	1 000 €
Interpretation services	4 000 €
Contingency	2 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>22 000 €</b>
<b>MEETING DURING THE BULGARIAN EU PRESIDENCY</b>	
Technical services (equipment, recording / videos / photos, venue, branding), materials (website, branded materials / handouts, report)	30 000 €
Organisation (accommodation, hotel equipment, hotel service staff, flights (fees), catering)	86 000 €
Taxis / transfers	3 000 €
Reimbursements, commission / exchange rate, contingency	4 500 €
Secretariat (fundraising, contents and material preparation, management) / Accounting services	20 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>143 500 €</b>
<b>INTEGRATE INTERNAL CHANNELS FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE BETWEEN PARTNERS</b>	
PACT Website redesign and integration of internal platform for exchange between Partners	4 000 €
Contingency	2 000 €
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6 000 €</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171 500 €</b>

Subject to funding