2018 in a nutshell

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1 Press release

Our network

25 Members - 3 new members in 2018!

COTEC - Council of Occupational Therapists for European Countries
EHMA - European Health Management Association
ESNO - European Specialist Nurses Organisation

See all

33 MEP supporters = 1 new one in 2018

See all
Our Events

21 November 2018
City-Labs Talk Series Meeting
Debate “Diabetes care in the digital age: accessing innovation & fostering self-care”
Participants: 20
Speakers: Barbara Kerstiens (European Commission); Ignacio Garamendi (IDF Europe); Ewout Gubbels (Patient & Young Advocate); Tanja Valentin (MedTech Europe); Guillaume Gustin (City-Labs team).
Event summary: link

19 September 2018
City-Labs Talk Series Meeting
Debate “Biobanking: indispensable tool or ethical concern?”
Roundtable of the EP Interest Group on Innovation in Health and Social Care on “Boosting workforce to meet new demands in healthcare systems”.
Participants: 30
Speakers: Anna Pia Papageorgiou (European Commission); Laurent Dollé (BWB - Biobanks Wallonia-Brussels); Francesco Florindi (BBMRI-ERIC Biobanking and Biomolecular resources Research Infrastructure)
Event summary: link

9 July 2018
City-Labs Talk Series Meeting
Debate “Applications of AI in health: to solve societal challenges or to become one?”.  
Participants: 30
Speakers: Costica Dumbrava (European Commission); Jelena Malinina (The European Consumer Organisation - BEUC); Damien Gruson (Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, City-Labs project)
Event summary: link
27 June 2018

European Network for Safer Healthcare (ENSH) meeting
Roundtable “Improving prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of Sepsis”

Participants: 35

Speakers: MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, Portugal); MEP Nicola Caputo (S&D, Italy); Konrad Reinhart (Global Sepsis Alliance); Garcia-Castrillo Riesgo (EUSEM); C. Price (European Commission); Dr. B. Kerstiens (European Commission); T. Calandra (European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) Prof. D. De Backer (European Society of Intensive Medicine); R. Ferrer (Project “Time to decision in Sepsis”); V. Hamilton (National Sepsis Steering Committee, Ireland)

Event summary: link

7 June 2018

European Parliament
Meeting of the EP Interest on Innovation in Health and Social care
Roundtable “Innovative Health Systems Reform: Shaping the future of public health towards screening and early diagnosis”

Participants: 35

Speakers: MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, Portugal); Leen Meulenbergs, (WHO Representative to the European Union); Irene Norstedt (European Commission); Davide Integlia (Institute for Competitiveness); Peggy Maguire (European Institute of Women’s Health); Johan Prevot (IPOPI – International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies)

Event summary: link

29 January 2018

European Parliament
Organised jointly with the TO-REACH consortium
Roundtable “Identifying and transferring innovation in comparative Health Services and Systems research”.

Participants: 40

Speakers: MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, Portugal); John Bowis (Former MEP and HFE Co-Patron); Walter Ricciardi (National Institute of Health of Italy); Ellen Nolte (Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health); Josep Figueras (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies); Natasha Azzopardi Muscat (European Public Health Association - EUPHA)

Event summary: link
Our awareness raising campaigns

Power of knowledge: boosting early diagnosis and screening in Europe
June 2018

Overview: In the frame of the Meeting of the [EP Interest Group on Innovation in Health and Social Care](https://www.ep-sides-europe.eu) held on 7 June 2018, HFE published [5 fact-sheets](https://www.healthfirsteurope.eu) on the power of knowledge and the value of screening.

Goal: It aims at encouraging key health stakeholders and policymakers to make better plans and invest in early diagnosis and screening programmes as key enablers for saving lives while ensuring sustainability of our healthcare systems.

Key message: Screening and early diagnosis play a critical role in detecting a disease in its earliest stages before any symptoms become noticeable. Secondary prevention is key to curbing a disease progression and maximising quality outcomes for patients while reducing healthcare costs.

Outcome: Highlighting the role of screening and early diagnosis as tools to build efficient and sustainable healthcare systems.

HFE actions

Published 5 factsheets on the power of knowledge
June 2018

1. Breast cancer
2. Type 2 Diabetes
3. Healthcare-associated infections
4. Heart failure
5. Newborn and Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID)

Organized one roundtable discussion on the value of secondary prevention
European Parliament, 7 June 2018
Overview: HFE launched the campaign #TogetherToHear to raise awareness on the burden of untreated hearing loss across Europe and its impact on social exclusion. The 2018 campaign consisted in a series of interviews with policymakers and stakeholders, an editorial from a MEP and the collaborative work on a parliamentary question presented in July 2018.

Goal: Building awareness amongst EU policymakers and civil society representatives on hearing loss as a hidden disability, on its social and economic impact as well as the value of technologies in better managing this condition.

Key message: Hearing loss and ear diseases have a significant social, emotional and economic impact. Early detection and intervention are crucial to minimize the impact of hearing loss on educational achievements, mental health and employment.

Outcome: Stressing the importance of hearing care and the uptake of innovative solutions.

HFE actions

Calling on the EP members for presenting a parliamentary question on the burden of hearing care to the European Commission
July 2018

Collaborative work on a parliamentary question signed by Heinz K. Becker (PPE), Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE), Boris Zala (S&D), Monika Smolková (S&D).

Edited and launched a video campaign to raise awareness the burden of hearing care
10 October 2018

The video campaign was launched on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day and it features MEP Renate Sommer (EPP, Germany), MEP Heinz K. Becker (EPP, Austria), Anne-Sophie Parent (AGE Platform), Shelly Chadha (WHO) and Teresa Amat (EURO-CIU).

Supporting MEP Heinz K. Becker in drafting a thought piece on hearing care (EPP, Austria)
21 November 2018

PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE "Ensuring children’s access to hearing care" by MEP Heinz K. Becker (EPP, Austria) – published in conjunction with the Universal Children’s Day.

About sponsorship: This project was made possible thanks to unrestricted grants from Med-el.
Assessing and fostering patient safety across Europe

(1) Patient Safety Indicators

**Overview:** HFE has developed 11 policy indicators to map and measure progress on patient safety policy across Europe. In 2018 HFE has released the final report with an analysis on key Member States: Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, UK, Netherlands & Spain.

**Goal:** Call Member States to adopting and implementing multilevel strategies on patient safety to improve quality of care in Europe

**Key message:** Clear evidence and measurable indicators are the main enablers when raising awareness on these key priorities.

**Outcome:** Pointing out the alarming lack of evidence related to each country’s national policies on AMR, surveillance, screening programmes, training etc.

**Download the report** [here](#)

(2) Declaration for Patient Safety

**Overview:** The Declaration for Patient Safety includes 10 calls for action addressed to EU and national policy developments to foster patient safety in the EU and its countries. In 2018 HFE liaised with 50+ associations to raise awareness on the Declaration and its goals and worked on press materials.

**Goal:** Call upon health authorities, policymakers, healthcare professionals, providers and patients to prevent unnecessary harms in healthcare by promoting safer health systems and high-quality standards on patient safety across Europe.

**Key message:** Member States must agree on a high level of understanding on patient safety practices and standards to drive their national policies into a common path. The European Commission must support them in this path.

**Outcome:** stressing the burden of patients’ harm across Europe and bringing together European healthcare associations to make a joint call to EU and national policymakers.

**More information** [here](#)

*About sponsorship:* The Declaration was made possible thanks to unrestricted grants from J&J, Novartis, BD, DocMorris.
HFE actions

Translating the Declaration for Patient Safety
March 2018
The Declaration is now available in Italian, French, German, Spanish. - link

Working in collaboration with MEP Alojz Peterle (EPP, Portugal) to present an article on patient safety and digital health
14 June 2018
PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE "Digital health must benefit patient safety" by MEP Alojz Peterle

Working jointly with some HFE members to release HFE editorial on patient safety and health workforce
17 September 2018

Drafting HFE report on the Patient Safety Indicators
15 November 2018

Releasing editorial about AMR policies and patient safety across Europe
15 November 2018
EDITORIAL: "Lapse in transparency and access about patient safety information" by HFE Executive Director, Melina Raso

Kicking off the national campaign for the Declaration for Patient Safety
December 2018
Contacting associations representing patients and professionals in EU countries.

The European Network for Safer Healthcare
Launched in June 2018

Overview: The European Network for Safer Healthcare is an informal group of health stakeholders working together to ensure patient and healthcare workforce safety is in the limelight of the EU policy agenda. The first meeting of the group took place in June and focused on sepsis prevention and management.
**Goal:** The Network’s goal is to represent a constructive, vigilant and responsive 3rd party body to support European and national initiatives aimed at enshrining best practice in patient safety in the EU.

**Key message:** Safety is a paramount concern for patients and healthcare workers in Europe. Ensuring the highest standards of safety for patients and the health workforce is the cornerstone of an effective health system and an indicator of quality of care.

**Outcome:** Bringing together European healthcare key actors to agree on a common message and strategy about safety in healthcare settings.

More information [here](#)

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### Actions

**First meeting of the Network**

27 June 2018

Roundtable focused on Improving prevention, diagnosis and clinical management of Sepsis

**Briefing on the next steps to Improve Prevention, Diagnosis and Clinical Management of Sepsis**

June 2018

Creating a high-level expert group on Sepsis within the Network

First meeting of the group held in July 2018

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### City-Labs project: Bringing labs closer to citizens & boosting digital solutions 2018

**Overview:** City-Labs is a project financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which aims at integrating the innovation of laboratory medicine and mobile health. In 2018 HFE organized 3 debates on the values and the challenges of digitalization – focusing on artificial intelligence, biobanking and chronic diseases monitoring.

**Goal:** To facilitate access to laboratory tests as part of a collaborative approach to ambulatory care of a chronically ill individual, as well as to contribute to the dynamic monitoring of patients with chronic diseases thought-out digital solutions.

**Key message:** Highlight the value of innovation in healthcare from new organisation of care to new eHealth solutions.
– Article: Artificial intelligence to transform healthcare – are we ready for Health 2.0? by Damien Gurson, City-Labs Coordinator

Further HFE insights:
HFE internal meetings and speaking engagements

Meet the new President

In June, HFE members elected its new Honorary President, Mr Roberto Bertollini, former WHO Representative to the EU in Brussels and Chief Scientist of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Read here its editorial "Committed to protect our health" including his vision for HFE programme and the future of health. The former HFE President, John Bowis, became HFE’s co-patron, together with David Byrne, former EU Health Commissioner from 1999-2004.

More information on their profiles and HFE structure here

Meet the new MEP Supporter

MEP Merja Kyllönen
Finland, GUE/NGL
Merja Kyllönen is a Finnish politician and Member of the European Parliament since 2014. She is a member of the Left Alliance, part of the European United Left–Nordic Green Left. She was the Minister of Transport in 2011–2014. She kicked off her political career while working as a laboratory officer and a technical assistant at a pharmacy. At the European Parliament, she is currently member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and substitute at the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

List of all HFE MEP Supporters here (total n. 33)
In 2018 HFE welcomed 3 new members: who are they?

**COTEC - Council of Occupational Therapists for European Countries**
COTEC was established in 1986 with the purpose of coordinating the views of the National Associations of Occupational Therapy in Europe. The aim of COTEC is to enable National Associations to work together to develop, harmonise and improve standards of professional practice and advance the theory of Occupational Therapy throughout Europe to best address the social and health issues affecting European citizens.

Founded in 1982, **EHMA - European Health Management Association** is a non-profit organisation focused is on health management capacity and capabilities and on supporting the successful implementation of health policy and practice. EHMA aims at bringing together health managers, health professionals, policy makers, researchers and educators. The association provides an environment where evidence, challenge and experience are valued and complex debates on current topics take place.

**ESNO – European Specialist Nurses Organisation** is a non-profit organisation, it promotes and contributes to the health and wellbeing of Europeans by facilitating and enabling the political voice of specialist nurses. ESNO aims to secure the recognition of specialist nursing in the EU and greater Europe. ESNO works for promoting, supporting and developing academically accredited training programs for qualified specialist nurses to address Quality and Safety of care and mobility of workforce within Europe.

List of all HFE members [here](#) (total n. 25)

### Internal meetings

**HFE Annual General Meeting**
7 June 2018

**HFE Members workshop on 2019 programme**
12 October 2018

### Speaking engagements

24 September 2018
Melina Raso at the IDF Europe-Feel4Diabetes Dissemination Meeting

9 November 2018
Melina Raso at the Joint Action on AMR & HAIs - 1st Stakeholder Forum, Vienna

6-7 December 2018
Melina Raso at the EUNETIPS 10 years, Berlin
Social media engagement

Health First Europe’s twitter has **over 2.500 accounts followers** – including official accounts of the European Commission (covering innovation, food and health policies) and the Commissioner Andriukaitis. From 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018, HFE twitter account earned **234.6 K impressions** (i.e. a tweet has been delivered to the Twitter stream of a particular account), redoubling last year’s figure (116.4 K impressions). Almost half of the impressions were collected during summer (3rd quarterly) thanks to the social media campaign on the Declaration for Patient Safety. HFE account earned **280 retweets** (increased by 49% cooperated to 2017), **573 likes** (increased by 110%) and **872 clicks** (increased by 260%).

### HFE top hashtags

**#Declaration4PatientSafety** – [tweet feed](#)

**#TogetherToHear** – [tweet feed](#)

**#ENCEHmeeting** – [tweet feed](#)

Tweet from **MEP Nicola Caputo (S&D Italy)** to promote the Declaration – Apr 2018

Tweet from **Age Planform** to launch HFE video campaign - Oct 2018

Tweet from **MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, Portugal)** at the first ENSH roundtable - Jun 2018

### HFE top tweets

**HFE roundtable at the EP**

To-Reach project – Jan 2018

Commissioner Andriukaitis’ remarks – Mar 2018

**City-Labs Event**

**HFE top follower of the year**

**EU Commission’s DG Health & Food Safety (SANTE) official account dedicated to food safety**

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