



## European Allergy and Asthma Youth Parliament

# Strategy Proposal

30 April 2021

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## Summary

The European Youth Parliament on Allergy and Asthma brings together young patients and healthcare professionals from across Europe to debate about allergy and asthma health, share best practices, and advocate for the needs of young people with allergy and asthma in Europe.

The Youth Parliament sets out to actively promote the involvement of young patients in the decisions that impact their health, and to help build their skills to become future leaders in health and patient rights.

In 2020, the Youth Parliament formed and worked together to create their own set of recommendations for EU policymakers: [\*Growing up with Allergy and Asthma: How EU policymakers can support young allergy and asthma patients to live better lives\*](#). The recommendations were officially launched in December 2020 at an event of the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma.

Following a successful first year of the Youth Parliament, we will work to bring the topics and issues explored in 2020 and build the Youth Parliament's influence at the European level and in their national networks.

The Youth Parliament will develop a "bottom-up approach" so that the direction of the Youth Parliament is shaped by its members, with EFA as support.

## 2021 priorities

Objectives	Activities
<p><b>1) Influence European policies affecting young people with allergy and asthma in Europe</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFA identifies EU consultations affecting allergy and asthma health and consults the Youth Parliament for input</li> <li>• Youth Parliament offers feedback when consulted on policy areas related to the Youth Parliament’s recommendations</li> <li>• Youth Parliament members attend EFA Working Group meetings when relevant</li> </ul>
<p><b>2) Youth Parliament cooperates with partners, including the European Parliament Interest Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFA organises two events of the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma and Youth Parliament actively participate in the events</li> <li>• EFA proposes collaboration and partnership to other organisations and the Youth Parliament</li> <li>• Youth Parliament members attend meetings and events and advocate recommendations to be integrated into partners’ work</li> </ul>
<p><b>3) Consolidate and reinforce the Youth Parliament</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFA hosts monthly coordination meetings and Youth Parliament members lead on topics and suggest agenda items</li> <li>• EFA prepares capacity building opportunities for Youth Parliament members, including an advocacy workshop and a Meet &amp; Greet on the functioning of the European Medicines Agency</li> <li>• EFA develops promotional material with Youth Parliament’s input and together promote it to recruit new members, especially from underrepresented countries</li> <li>• EFA redevelops the webpage with Youth Parliament’s input, a video, and social media material</li> <li>• Youth Parliament contributes to blog articles and patient stories</li> </ul>

## Influence European policy: priorities

EFA works against the work pillars of INFORM | PREVENT | CARE. The Youth Parliament is an activity under INFORM. In 2021, the Youth Parliament will focus on the work pillars of

PREVENT and CARE to deliver concrete proposals to advance disease and symptoms prevention and improve the healthcare of young people.

A survey conducted in March 2021, the Youth Parliament identified **air quality** and **food labelling** as priorities for the year. EFA will support the Youth Parliament by consulting them on EFA's policy work relating to these topics, so that the Youth Parliament can offer their own feedback and the youth patient perspective.

In addition, to build on the policy recommendations at the EU level, the following policy areas will be addressed in 2021:

1. Medicines
2. Climate Change
3. Tobacco

When EFA is working on EU policy consultations relating to these areas, where appropriate they will consult the Youth Parliament with concise summaries of the policy and where input from the Youth Parliament is desired.

## Cooperating with partners: opportunities

Following the launch of the policy recommendations in 2020, the Youth Parliament will work closer with EFA's partners to push for the demands of the recommendations and encourage other organisations to call for a youth-in-all-policies approach. The aim will be to establish cooperation in key priorities and strengthen mutual understanding.

Through a survey, the Youth Parliament identified the following areas when working with partners:

- To participate in discussions alongside EFA
- To be actively informed about the partners work and issues they address.

In line with this, the following topics were identified to work with partners on:

- Digital health access and health data use
- Patient empowerment and health literacy
- Research, clinical trials, and treatment

The following are examples of potential partners the Youth Parliament can collaborate with.

## European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma

The Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma consists of MEPs who wish to support EU policies that reflect the needs of allergy and asthma patients, to work towards better and more equal healthcare access and prevention.

In December 2020, the Interest Group hosted the digital launch of the Youth Parliament's recommendations, where they were highly positive of the content as "ambitious but realistic goals", and the importance of listening to young patients' needs.

In 2021, the Youth Parliament will set out to follow that the recommendations continue to be used by MEPs in their own advocacy and policy initiatives. This can be achieved through:

- Following the MEPs work in the European Parliament and reaching out to offering the youth perspective
- Supporting EFA propose MEPs with questions addressing youth priorities
- Participating actively in events of the Interest Group on Allergy and asthma
- Communicating publicly towards MEPs, especially from the countries of origin of Youth Parliament members

### EAACI Junior Members

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) is the largest medical association in the field of allergy and clinical immunology, who with EFA run the Secretariat of the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma.

The EAACI Junior Members (JMs) section represent clinicians and scientists under the age of 35 years. With the JM, EAACI develops specific activities to support and increase the influence of the younger members within the Academy.

EAACI has established a [Junior Members Mentorship Programme](#) to create a platform in close cooperation with EAACI professionals and build the professional skills and career development of its Junior Members (JMs).

The Youth Parliament can play an important role in delivering the voice of youth patients to the work of the JM, and identifying common grounds to create joint work on, such as statements, blog posts etc. A meeting can be set up with the JM chair and members to brainstorm on ideas.

### European Patient Forum Youth Group

The European Patients Forum Youth Group is made up of young patient with varying chronic conditions across the EU. The Youth Group is a reference point to communicate the needs of young patients to EPF and its Members. EFA is founding Member of EPF.

EPF is organising a European Patients Forum Summer Training Course for Young Patient Advocates (STYPA) as a series of online webinars from May until October 2021. It sets out to teach participants advocacy and leadership skills with expert trainers.

EPF Youth Group are open to collaboration, such as by sharing the work of the Youth Parliament. In 2021 it would be ideal to invite the coordinator or members to a meeting of the Youth Parliament to present the work of the EPF Youth Group, and allow the Youth Parliament to brainstorm collaboration ideas,

such as whether the EPF Youth Group can endorse the recommendations or to invite the Youth parliament to their events and vice versa.

### Consolidating the Youth Parliament

#### Skills development

EFA will organise a capacity building training session for the Youth Parliament members, to take place in late June/early July. The training will work with experts and will focus on two topics identified by the Youth Parliament as priorities:

- Advocacy strategies
- Campaigning tools

It will link to the priority topics such as food labelling and air quality, so that the Youth Parliament can understand better how to use advocacy and campaign tools and strategy to achieve their goals. The training will offer insight into the EU, but the practical skills the participants will learn will be applicable to their national context also.

#### Representation and recruitment

Within the goal to expand the Youth Parliament, we will target countries that are currently not represented in the Youth Parliament to have a greater geographical balance.

Over the course of the year, the Youth Parliament will implement two recruitment campaigns. This will be alongside EFA supporting individual efforts to recruit new members. EFA will develop materials for Youth Parliament members to share to inform about the work of the Youth Parliament and how to get involved.

The two recruitment phases will take place May-June and September-October during which EFA will share content relating to joining the Youth Parliament across its channels.

The Youth Parliament will also use their own networks to reach out to individuals who may be interested in joining. This can include university groups, national level patient groups, and social circles.

### Communications

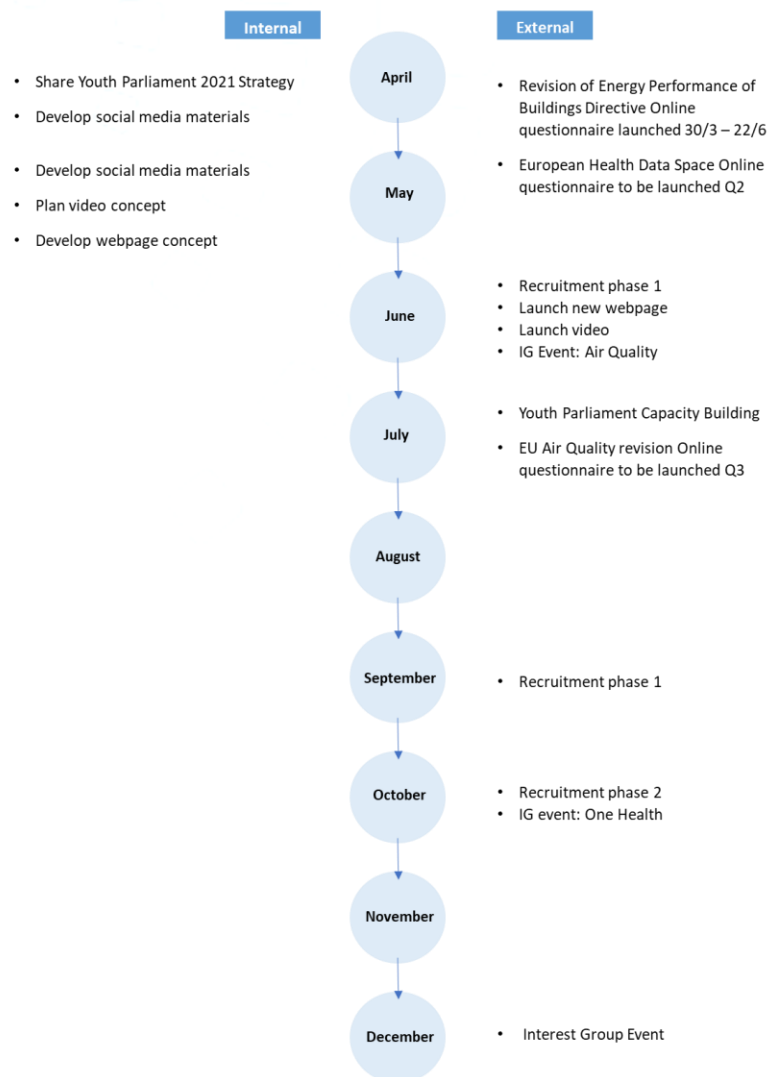
To support the recruitment efforts and to promote the work of the Youth Parliament, EFA will support the members in creating and disseminating communication materials.

From April-June, EFA will also develop social media materials for the Youth Parliament to share during the recruitment phases including:

- Text posts
- Infographic summarising the work of the Youth Parliament
- Short video of testimonials of the youth parliament

In addition to this, the webpage of the [Youth Parliament](#) will be refreshed to include more information about the Youth Parliament members. EFA will develop a new concept for the web page with the Youth Parliament to include biographies of the members, blog articles and testimonials from members.

### 2021 Timeline



## **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTEREST GROUP ON ALLERGY AND ASTHMA**

was launched on 25 March 2015 as a result of a long-standing collaboration between the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA), and a group of forward-thinking Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), who are committed to tackle allergy and asthma in Europe.

### **CONTACT US**

For more information on the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma please contact the Secretariat.

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#EPAllergyAsthma

#EA2Youth

