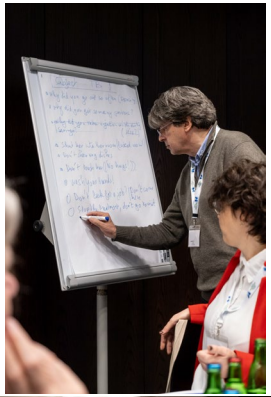
Best practices 2025

Throwback to the first edition of the European Respiratory Patient Academy






















European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy

Bringing patients into lung cancer screening discussions

AUSTRIA • Gundula Koblmiller • Österreichische Lungenunion

1 CHALLENGE

Patient groups **lacked information** and opportunities to contribute to lung cancer screening discussions.

2 ACTION

Organised a **roundtable with experts**, highlighted patient information gaps and offered to collaborate.

3 IMPACT

Greater visibility as a potential patient partner and **invitations to further screening discussions**.

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Don't wait to be invited. Prepare your case and start the conversation.


22 MEINUNG

Die Lunge, das vergessene Organ

Iran-Krieg legt Bruchlinien der Weltwirtschaft offen

PIZZICATO

LESERPOST


PRAEVENIRE

Früherkennung: Für eine gesunde Lunge

Wenn jeder Atemzug zählt

Austrian press writes about events and meetings organised by Gundula and Lung Union.
lungenunion.at

Turning women's COPD stories into advocacy

ITALY • Cristina Jacomelli • Respiriamo Insieme APS

RESPIRIAMO INSIEME

1 CHALLENGE

Women's experiences with COPD often receive **insufficient attention** in research, diagnosis and care.

2 ACTION

Built on the *Scritture in Rosa (Writings in pink)* literary initiative through **partnerships, communication and advocacy**.

3 IMPACT

- **72** competition entries
- **90** press articles
- **26** stories published in a book

Scritture in Rosa increased the visibility of **women's COPD** and the importance of gender-sensitive and **personalised approaches to respiratory healthcare** in Italy.



respiriamoinsieme.org

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Lived experiences can become powerful evidence for advocacy.

My Academy experience further strengthened my understanding of lived experiences as real-world evidence for advocacy, the importance of gender-sensitive and personalised healthcare, and the need for collaboration between patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, scientific societies and policymakers.

Cristina Jacomelli



European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy

Making advocacy clearer and more collaborative

FRANCE • Eric Salone • Josiane Salone, tous unis contre la BPCO



1 CHALLENGE

Long explanations obscured advocacy proposals, while the organisation was **working too much in isolation**.

2 ACTION

Put clear proposals first and opened discussions with other patient organisations.

3 IMPACT

New collaborations and advocacy activities. **Organisation listed as a COPD patient resource** on ameli.fr.

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Lead with your proposal. Build alliances around shared priorities.

Drawing on the Academy's lessons, I rethought our communication approach, bringing our proposals and the changes we wanted to achieve to the forefront. I opened up our work to other patient organistions, creating opportunities for collaboration and identifying shared advocacy topics.

Eris Salone

association-j-salone.com

European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy

Making adult vaccination a national health priority

PORTUGAL • Paula Duarte • RESPIRA

respira

Associação Portuguesa de Pessoas com DPOC e outras Doenças Respiratórias Crónicas

1 CHALLENGE

Gaps in vaccine access and reimbursement for older adults and people living with chronic diseases in Portugal.

2 ACTION

RESPIRA relaunched **MOVA*, bringing together patient organisations** and healthcare professionals for joint advocacy, awareness campaigns and policy engagement.

**Movement for Patients for Vaccination*

3 IMPACT

Strengthened collaboration and a **collective voice** advocating for **better vaccination policies**, access and health literacy.

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Build alliances and use reliable evidence to advocate for equitable access to vaccination.







respira.pt

Facebook page: MOVA - Movimento Doentes pela Vacinação

European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy

From TB discussions to coordinated action

INTERNATIONAL • Yuliia Kalancha • TB EUROPE Coalition

1 CHALLENGE

TB requires action beyond healthcare, but different sectors had **competing priorities and lacked a shared understanding** of their responsibilities.

2 ACTION

Brought government sectors and civil society together **to identify barriers, agree responsibilities and plan next steps**.

3 IMPACT

TB discussions led to **clearer responsibilities, stronger coordination and concrete national follow-up** in Tajikistan, Moldova and Ukraine.

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Bring the right people together, speak to their priorities and turn discussions into actionable commitments.







Picture source: presentation by Yuliia Kalancha at the European Respiratory Patient Academy 2nd edition 2026 tbcoalition.eu

European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy

Making adult vaccination a national health priority

United Kingdom • Leanne Hale • Asthma + Lung UK

1 CHALLENGE

Helpline callers **repeatedly described weight loss, poor appetite and difficulties accessing specialist nutrition advice**.

2 ACTION

Leanne **raised these recurring concerns with her manager and colleagues**, advocating for dietetic support on the helpline.

3 IMPACT

Specialist dietetic support was introduced, giving callers access to personalised nutrition advice.

LESSON FOR ADVOCATES

Listen for patterns in patient experiences, then speak up to turn unmet needs into practical support.

I speak up more and I recognise the value of the experiences people share. I haven't stopped caring about the individual person, but I also think more deliberately about who else might be affected and who needs to hear what we're learning. The Academy helped me develop skills I was already using and gave me connections that make that easier.

Leanne Hanne

asthmaandlung.org.uk



European RESPIRATORY PATIENT Academy