EFA CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME 2018 GOVERNANCE IN PATIENT ORGANISATIONS

Elena Balestra, EPF Membership & Capacity Building Manager

> @eupatientsforum @elenabalestra

29 October 2018





Mission and vision

Our Vision!

"All patients with chronic conditions in Europe have access to high-quality, patient-centred health and related care."

Our Mission!

"be the collective influential patient voice in European health and related policies and a driving force to advance patient empowerment and equitable patient access to care in Europe."







Our Strategic Goals





Evolution of EPF activities 2003-2017



European Patients

Evolution from 1 to 3 "pillars"

Strengthening policy impact

EPF CAPACITY BUILDING POGRAMME





What, how, for whom?



CB Online









CB Offline | The European Pillar





National Coalitions Meeting







The European Patient Academy

- a pan-European project implemented as a PPP by a collaborative multi-stakeholder consortium from the pharmaceutical industry, academia, not-for-profit, and patient organisations; (IMI project)
- EUPATI has already trained <u>96 patient experts</u> on medicines development, clinical trials, medicines regulations, health technology assessment.
- https://www.eupati.eu/
- <u>https://www.eupati.eu/what-is-the-toolbox/</u>





Why governance is key?



- Structure gives members clear guidelines for how to proceed. A clearly-established structure gives the group a means to maintain order and resolve disagreements.
- Structure binds members together. It gives meaning and identity to the people who join the group, as well as to the group itself.
- Structure in any organisation is inevitable an organisation, by definition, implies a structure.

Key aspects to consider











How complex my governance structure should be ?





Constitution



- Constitution are the written rules that control the internal affairs of an organisation. Constitution generally define things like:
 - the group's official name, purpose, requirements for membership, officers' titles and responsibilities, how offices are to be assigned, how meetings should be conducted, and how often meetings will be held.
 - ✓ govern the way the group must function as well as the roles and responsibilities of its officers.
 - ✓ Constitution serve as the legal guidelines of the organisation





- Provide the answers to tough questions;
- Save enormous amounts of time, help you define your mission, or structure the organisation to correspond to that mission;
- It is necessary in some countries if your organisation wants to apply for non-profit status;
- It keeps your organisation focused on its intended purpose by specifically defining that purpose.

The highest representative body of your organisation

These meetings mainly have the following responsibilities:

- Election of the executive bodies and other bodies named in the Constitution;
- Taking political & strategic decisions for the organisation work;
- Making financial decisions: adopting the budget, accepting the annual financial statements;
- ✓ Adopting & amending the statutes & other working rules;







Aka Bureau, Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Presidium

- Made of several individuals coming from your membership;
- They are elected by your full members during the Annual General Assembly;
- The board is accountable to your members;



What does it do?

- Making sure that the organisation is working towards its goals & implementing its work plan;
- Ensuring that the organisation has the necessary resources to work and overseeing the financial management;
- Recruitment of the Organisations' Lead (Secretary General/ CEO);

Board of Directors

Key characteristics

- Knowledge of the patient community;
- Commitment;
- Expertise;











- Manages the day to day operations of the organisation;
- Implements the strategy designed by the governing bodies;
- Manage the relationship with the board and the members;

How to ensure democracy & transparency within your organisation

Positive, transparent, effective, accountable

Describe processes and leave no room to ambiguity

- Elections processes
- Board rotation policy
- Length of term and limits in the terms of mandates

Ask yourself questions

- What happens in case of cessation of appointment?
- Board members should be different from paid staff
- Do you have a conflict of interest policy?







Tips and tricks

Constitution

- Think forward when developing it;
- Make it last;
- Gather examples of Constitutions of similar organisations for reference;
- Look for templates;
- Ask for legal advise;

TrustLaw^{*}

TrustLaw is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal programme. We connect high-impact NGOs and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change with the best law firms and corporate legal teams to provide them with free legal assistance. We produce groundbreaking legal research and offer innovative training courses worldwide.







General Assembly

- Prepare it and make the most out of it;
- Engage your members regularly during the year;
- □ Focus on the key issues and achievements;
- □ Send all the material well upfront;
- □ Make it interactive;
- Take minutes and prepare a report to be shared afterwards;

Tips and tricks



Board Members

- Spell out clearly what is expected from them: roles, responsibilities of board members & estimated time commitment;
- It helps if your board members are an odd number in case there is a tie during votes;
- Ideally, your organisations' board is different from its management (paid staff). While many small patient organisations have board members serving in the management position, try to bring some separation in the roles;
- Board meetings are kept close. However, written proceedings, summary minutes should be made available upon request;
- Develop a conflict of interest policy and ask board members to disclose any possible conflict of interest (personal, financial and others).



Tips and tricks

- □ Make sure he/she has the right level of autonomy;
- □ Make sure he/she receives support from the board;
- As he/she is generally appointed by the board and reports to them> it's best he/she doesn't have voting rights at board meetings;
- □ Make sure he/she is not over-worked;







THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Follow us on Social Media!



/europeanpatientsforum



eu-patient.eu/blog



/eupatientsforum

@elena.balestra

More information www.eu-patient.eu info@eu-patient.eu

