

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of the European Parliament building in Brussels. The building is a large, circular, modern structure with a glass facade and multiple levels. In the foreground, several flagpoles are visible, flying the European Union flag (blue with yellow stars) and various national flags of EU member states, including Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Greece, and Slovakia. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

ACTION PLAN 2022

**EUROPEAN ALLERGY AND
ASTHMA YOUTH PARLIAMENT**



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 young 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.

In 2021, the overarching goal of the Youth Parliament was to implement its policy recommendations into its own advocacy work. Members contributed to EU and WHO consultations including:

- ❖ [WHO Europe Future Generations survey](#): youth input for a report on how to prioritise health and sustainable development in the post-pandemic years.
- ❖ [European Consultation on paediatric drugs and unmet needs](#): part of the General Pharmaceutical Strategy to establish new legislation responding to patient's unmet needs
- ❖ [European Youth Ideas report and the European Youth Event](#): part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, a pan-European democratic exercise of citizen-led debates on the future of the EU.

EFA organised two virtual capacity building sessions for members to gain skills in advocacy and public speaking. The Youth Parliament also was represented externally by members. Laura Stenz participated in the European Youth Event and applied to be a part of the global WHO Youth Council, and Freja Anckers spoke at the European Parliament Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma's webinar 'Addressing patient unmet needs in allergy and asthma care'.

In terms of outreach and communication, the Youth Parliament's [LinkedIn page](#) was launched in the summer of 2021 and the [new website](#) released in late 2021. A [video](#) to recruit new members was produced to be launched in 2022 as part of a new recruitment campaign.

EA2 Youth Parliament 2021 Strategy Analysis

Objective	Activity	Result
Goal 1: Influence European policies affecting young people with allergy and asthma in Europe		
EFA identifies EU consultations affecting allergy and asthma health and consults the Youth Parliament for input	Youth Parliament worked on 3 consultations in 2021: WHO Europe Future Generations, European Youth Event's Future of Europe, and European Commission's paediatric drugs and unmet needs	Young allergy and asthma patients were represented at key policy initiatives to influence health policy at the European level
Youth Parliament offers feedback when consulted on policy areas related to the Youth Parliament's recommendations		The Youth parliament's EU policy recommendations were the basis to influence outcomes on health, environment, and social policy
Youth Parliament members attend EFA Working Group meetings when relevant	Youth Parliament members were invited to attend working group meetings on World Atopic Eczema Day – this cooperation can be increased	
Goal 2: Youth Parliament cooperates with partners, including the European Parliament Interest Group		
EFA organises two events of the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma and Youth Parliament actively participate in the events	The European Patient's Forum Youth Group spoke at the Youth Parliament's capacity building	Greater awareness of the Youth Parliament and its work has been created among partners, creating opportunities for synergies
EFA proposes collaboration and partnership to other organisations and the Youth Parliament	Youth Parliament members took part in EPF's summer training course for young patients	Youth Parliament members have benefited from the knowledge and experience of other patient advocates
Youth Parliament members attend meetings and events and advocate recommendations to be integrated into partners' work	There is plenty of room to increase cooperation with partners – especially with EAACI JM and the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma	

Goal 3: Consolidate and reinforce the Youth Parliament

EFA hosts monthly coordination meetings and Youth Parliament members lead on topics and suggest agenda items	The Youth Parliament has held meetings once a month	The Youth Parliament has been brought together closer as a team and gained confidence in their skills as patient advocates.
EFA prepares capacity building opportunities for Youth Parliament members, including an advocacy workshop and a Meet & Greet on the functioning of the European Medicines Agency	The Youth Parliament attended its two-part capacity building on advocacy – but there was low turnout	Awareness of the Youth Parliament has increased with its own branding launched.
EFA develops promotional material with Youth Parliament’s input and together promote it to recruit new members, especially from underrepresented countries	Youth Parliament’s website and LinkedIn page launched, visual identity developed and video to be completed	
EFA redevelops the webpage with Youth Parliament’s input, a video, and social media material	These materials need to be launched officially for a recruitment campaign	
	Youth Parliament quoted in EFA Live on the European Youth Event	
Youth Parliament contributes to blog articles and patient stories	Blog guidelines to be finalised for Youth Parliament to contribute articles	

2022 Strategy

Youth Parliament coordination

The Youth Parliament will meet on a monthly basis, with breaks for summer and winter. The meetings will be to provide updates to the Youth Parliament on policy, events and campaigns, as well as to open the floor for discussions. The coordination of the Youth Parliament work will be supported by the EFA secretariat, including the arrangement of meetings and agendas, relevant background information, and follow up on actions from meetings

If determined to be safe given the ongoing pandemic, an in-person meeting will be arranged for the Youth Parliament to attend in Brussels (Belgium) in the autumn. This meeting will allow the Youth Parliament members to engage in discussions, attend a capacity building session, and visit the European Parliament to gain a deeper understanding of the EU institutions.

Performance indicators:

- ❖ Regular, substantial, meetings with the Youth Parliament
- ❖ 10 meetings with active participation held

Policy influence

The main aim of the Youth Parliament is to bring the young allergy and asthma patient perspective to policy consultations and provide input based on its [EU policy recommendations](#). In 2021, the Youth Parliament gave input to consultations from the European Commission and the World Health Organisation, as well as for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

2022 will see the Youth Parliament contribute to more responses led by EFA to EU official consultations, contact and have meeting with their own national Members of the European Parliament, as well as to act on youth-focused initiatives. The priority topics identified by the Youth Parliament for 2022 are food labelling and safety and reducing social inequalities. Other policy areas of interest are the digitalisation of healthcare, education, and mobility, with environmental issues to a lesser extent. The policies worked on will depend on what EU official plans to put forward in 2022, and the Youth Parliament will bring its positions where needed.

The Youth Parliament will populate its website with written statements to present the Youth Parliament’s position on relevant and timely topics, as well as blog articles to bring their perspective as young patients.

The upcoming policy areas/consultations identified of interest are:

- ❖ European Year of Youth
- ❖ Conference on the Future of Europe
- ❖ Revision of General Pharmaceutical legislation
- ❖ European Lung Health Group event
- ❖ Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform
- ❖ Codex Alimentarius Commission

Performance indicators

- ❖ Provide input to 3 consultations across 2022

Skill building

In 2021, the Youth Parliament Members attended capacity building sessions on the EU institutions and on advocacy and public speaking to build confidence in their patient advocacy skills. As a result, Members reported feeling more confident in their ability to influence European-level policymakers. In 2022, the Youth Parliament will build on these skills and deepen their advocacy knowledge through further capacity building.

The areas indicated by the Youth Parliament as priorities to receive training in are **EU decision making processes**, with campaigning tools, advocacy strategies, and thematic topics to a lesser extent. If a visit to the European Parliament can be made in 2022, it will involve a workshop on how the European Parliament works as well as a meeting with members of the Interest Group on Allergy and Asthma, to help the Youth Parliament understand and gain practice in European-level advocacy.

Performance indicators:

- ❖ 1 capacity building training with at least 10 participants

Working with partners

In 2021 the European Patient's Forum Youth Group gave a keynote speech to the Youth Parliament. In 2022, we aim to solidify connections with partners to broaden the young patients voice at the European level.

The main areas to collaborate on is to produce joint statements with partners on relevant news and policy initiatives to position the voice of young patients in discussions in a timely manner.

Performance indicators:

- ❖ Connect with established partners to produce joint written statements, campaigns or events
- ❖ Identity other potential partners to network with

Expanding the Youth Parliament

In 2022 the Youth Parliament will hold two recruitment campaigns to expand its membership. The recruitment campaign will target young patients aged 16-30 living with allergy and asthma, as well as young scientific advisors below 35. Priority will be given to currently underrepresented countries in the Youth Parliament, as well as outreach to young asthma patients.

The campaign will centre around the Youth Parliaments' recruitment video produced at the end of 2021 and will utilise social media and EFA's mailing lists to perform outreach.

In addition, the Youth Parliament will have a presence at the EFA AGM/Networking session to showcase their achievements to EFA members and encourage representatives to promote the Youth Parliament within their own networks.

Performance indicators:

- ❖ Recruit 5 new members to the Youth Parliament
- ❖ Create more disease and geographic diversity in the Youth Parliament
- ❖ Reach 100+ followers on LinkedIn
- ❖ Youth Parliament members use their own social media platforms to promote their work

Timeline

Key

	Meetings
	Training
	Policy influence
	Communications/Campaigns

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Monthly coordination meetings	Monthly coordination meetings	Monthly coordination meetings	Monthly coordination meetings
Recruitment campaign	Recruitment campaign	Recruitment campaign	Recruitment campaign
European Lung Health Group event			
	Conference on the Future of Europe		
	Capacity building (tbd)	Capacity building (tbd)	
		European Parliament visit (tbc)	
	Present at EFA AGM/Networking		
European Year of Youth			
			General Pharmaceutical Legislation
	Codex Alimentarius Commission		
Zero Pollution Stakeholders Platform			

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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