

ISSUE FACT SHEET

Financing public interest organisations in the EU Health Policy Forum



Health NGOs and patient organisations have played a crucial role in directing public and political attention to key issues of the need for affordable access to treatment, the marginalization of the impoverished, and the needs of patients and carers. Bringing personal experiences and citizens interests to the table, health NGOs and patient organisations have a certain credibility in communicating the needs of patients, consumers and the wider population.

The public and patient voice in the EU Health Policy Forum

Public interest organisations are increasingly consulted in the policy making process. DG SANCO has developed a high-level consultation platform: the EU Health Policy Forum. The Forum is made up of four key stakeholder groups and serves as an interlocutor and bridge between the European Commission and the public health community.

Public health NGOs and patient organisations constitute nearly half of the EU Health Policy Forum. The question is - how do NGOs representing public health, patients and consumers fund their work at the highest European level?

Survey of funding sources

Financial information was available online for ten of the 24 public health NGOs and patient groups active in the EU Health Policy Forum¹. All organisations reported receiving funds from EU sources and a combination of regional and/or government authorities, commercial sources, private foundations, donations, membership fees and other sources.

Sustaining the public health perspective in EU debates

The formation of health policy at the EU level relies on the broad participation of stakeholders. In light of shrinking public budgets, health NGOs could face increasing difficulty finding resources to support their valuable work. An independently governed funding pool that combines public and commercial sources would supplement government funding and lessen the need for financial support directly from private commercial entities. This model could sustain the work of public interest organisations in consultation groups such as the EU Health Policy Forum, and promote their financial independence.

¹ Survey conducted from July – August 2011



This paper arises from the Developing Rational Use of Medicines in Europe project (2009), which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health programme. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author, who is solely responsible for its content. The Executive Agency is not responsible for any use of the information herein

Overtoom 60, II
1054 HK Amsterdam
The Netherlands
info@haiweb.org
www.haiweb.org