



European
Patient
Advocacy
Group



The involvement of patient organisations and patients in the European Reference Networks

What are the European Reference Networks?

European Reference Networks (ERNs) are networks of Centres of Expertise that connect experts and researchers, who share the same interests in a specific rare disease or highly specialised treatment, across the European Union and the countries of the European Economic Area region. ERNs are first and foremost healthcare networks that aim to improve access to diagnosis, care and treatment by sharing their expertise, knowledge and resources, guiding care and treatment.

It is therefore of utmost importance that ERNs remain centred on patients' needs. ERNs give clinicians and patient organisations from different countries the opportunity to co-design better healthcare services for people living with rare diseases.

What are the European Patient Advocacy Groups?

European Patient Advocacy Groups (ePAGs) are patient groups that bring together rare disease patient advocates who are actively involved in the 24 European Reference Networks, working in partnership with clinicians and researchers. Each of the 24 Networks focuses on a particular disease area and has its own ePAG.

What is the role of ePAG advocates?

They represent the interests and needs of the patient community:

- to ensure that the needs of people living with a rare disease drive the activities of each European Reference Network.
- to champion the diversity of views of the wider patient community relevant for each ERN, and not just of their own disease area.
- to work with their national and European networks in order to facilitate two-way communication between the European Reference Networks and the patient community.
- to work in partnership with the clinicians to support the development of clinical practice guidelines and other clinical decision support tools and contribute to research, education, information and awareness activities.

The position of an ePAG advocate is a voluntary position and does not involve any financial compensation. Individuals must be endorsed by a patient organization based in a European country to join as an ePAG advocate and be involved in ERN working groups.

How can patient organisations and patients get involved in the ERNs?

Submit an application to designate an ePAG advocate!

Patient organisations that wish to designate a representative to join a European Patient Advocacy Group and be involved in the ERN working groups may contact PEM-ePAGs@eurordis.org to ask for further information.

Receive updates or support specific projects and activities of the ERNs!

This type of lighter engagement has not yet been organised in all ERNs. Patient organisations as well as individual patients or family members interested in receiving updates and information on the ERNs activities or willing to collaborate on specific projects and activities to support the Networks, may contact ePAG advocates or ERN project managers to find out more.

ERN EpiCARE (Epilepsy)

Isabella Brambilla
Dravet Italia Onlus
isabella.brambilla@dravet-italia.org

ERN PaedCan (Paediatric cancer)

Anita Kienesberger
a.kienesberger@ccieurope.eu
Childhood Cancer International -Europe

ERN EYE (EYE)

Dominique Sturz
d.sturz@utanet.at
Austrian Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted

ERN EURACAN (Adult Cancer)

Muriel Rogasik
Muriel.rogasik@lyon.unicancer.fr
EURACAN Network Manager

ERN CRANIO (Cranio-facial)

Gareth Davies
gareth.davies@europeanleft.org
European Cleft Organisation

ERN ITHACA (Congenital Malformations and Rare Intellectual Disability)

Dorica Dan
dorica.dan@eurordis.org
Romanian Prader Willi Association

ERN ERNICA (Gastrointestinal)

Anke Widenmann
anke@eat-federation.org
Esophageal Atresia Global Support Groups

ERN eUROGEN (Urogenital)

Dalia Aminoff
dalia.aminoff@gmail.com
Associazione Italiana per le Malformazioni Anorettali

ERN RARE-LIVER (Hepatic)

Angela Leburgue / Wiebke Papenthin
angela@albi-france.org / vorsitz@morbus-wilson.de
Association pour la Lutte contre les maladies Inflammatoires du Foie et des voies biliaires / Verein Morbus Wilson E.V.

ERN LUNG (Pulmonary)

Liam Galvin
liam.galvin@eu-pff.org
European Pulmonary Fibrosis Federation

ERN Skin (Rare skin diseases)

Marie-Claude Boiteux
mcjlboiteux@aol.com
Cutis Laxa Internationale

MetabERN (Rare Metabolic Conditions)

Michaela Dan
Romanian Gaucher Association
infogaucher.ro@gmail.com

ERN ReCONNET (Connective tissue and musculoskeletal)

Ilaria Galetti
ila.galetti@gmail.com
Federation of European Scleroderma Associations

ERN EURO-NMD (Neuromuscular)

Tamara Shepherd
tshepherd@afm-telethon.fr
AFM-Téléthon

ERN TRANSPLANT-CHILD (Transplant)

Ana Merino
coordination@transplantchild.eu

ERN ERKNet (Renal)

Susana Carvajal Arjona
s.carvajal@hipofam.org
Hipofam

ERN BOND (Bone)

Rebecca Tvedt Skarberg / Liana la Forgia
rebeccatvedt@yahoo.no / mclaforgia@gmail.com
OIFE - Osteogenesis Imperfecta Federation Europe / ACAR - Associazione Conto Alla Rovescia

ERN GENTURIS (Genetic Tumor Risk)

Claas Röhl
claas.roehl@nfkinder.at
NF Kinder - Verein zur Förderung der Neurofibromatoseforschung Österreich

ERN GUARD-HEART (Cardiac)

Simone Louise
slouisse62@gmail.com
Stichting Hart4Onderzoek/Heart4Research

ERN EuroBloodNet (Haematological)

Mariangela Pellegrini
mariangela.pellegrini@aphp.fr
ERN-EuroBloodNet Educational & Patients Program Manager

ERN VASCERN (Vascular)

Eva Collado
eva.collado@gmail.com
Asociación Nacional De Afectados Por Síndromes De Ehlers Danlos E Hiperlaxitud

ERN Endo-ERN (Endocrine)

Johan De Graaf
johan.degraaf@hypofyse.nl
Nederlandse Hypofyse Stichting (Dutch Pituitary Foundation)

ERN RND (Neurological)

Nataliya Grigorova
Bulgarian Huntington Association
info@huntington.bg

ERN RITA (Immunological and autoinflammatory)

Malena Vetterli
info@fmfandaaid.org
FMF & AID Global Association