

Nomination of the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC) (<https://euprimarycare.org/>) for the WHO Primary Health Care Awards 2022

The European Forum for Primary Care was initiated in 2005 by a group of interested PHC professionals from several countries. The aim of the Forum is to improve the health of the population by promoting strong Primary Health Care.

Since 2005 the EFPC has been constantly on the barricades to promote Primary Health Care (PHC). Its unique selling point is interprofessional collaboration, which is central to strong PHC and paramount for optimal patient and population health in particular for NCDs. The Forum brings together PHC professionals and academics from across Europe and includes collaboration with other parts of the world. Collaboration is captured through joint research projects, learning and development, interdisciplinary experience and recognition of the shared values of practitioners and academics. EFPC represents all professionals working with the PHC system and enables them to learn together through regular webinars, Position Papers on PHC, conferences, research projects and European meetings and an online communication platform. EFPC has its focus of interest of the patient and the community by making interprofessional collaboration and engagement with communities an ethical imperative.

EFPC has dared to be politically active lobbying in the interest of the patient and community. Its lobby for a fair and equitable PHC is impressive. Exemplary are its efforts to operate within European Medicines Agency (EMA) (e.g. on Anti-microbial Resistance, vaccination hesitancy, etc.), that has resulted in enhanced communication between the EMA and PHC professionals in order to improve the information flow towards the European citizens on critical issues. Recently its news bulletin in the Russian language is an effort to support their Russian speaking PHC colleagues in providing relevant and real life information on the health and humanitarian situation in Ukraine. To establish social cohesion at an international level is the ultimate goal.

Equally through its position papers and collaborative research in PHC across Europe, EFPC has campaigned for improvements in mental health care, occupational health and prison health fields that are often under-represented and where equity in access and outcomes are unequal across populations and between different PHC systems in Europe. For example, the mental health working group drew on inter-professional and patient experience to draw up the EFPC position paper that is being taken forward by EFPC in inter-professional development and research with the purpose of promoting mental health and sustaining well-being for all people.

EFPC has been exemplary for the emergence of AfroPHC, that promotes Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) as the solution to solve African health problems. AfroPHC is now growing fast.

The potential of the EFPC for improving PHC is enormous. This nomination is in recognition of the genuine collaboration and commitment to change that is likely to be most effective in bringing about change and improvement in PHC and community health and equity for all.

Main track record:

Two weekly EFPC newsflash and social media attention like the LinkedIn PC Forum (with > 6.400 members)

Annual Conferences like the upcoming #EFPC2022 in Ghent, Belgium.

Study visits in different countries for PHC managers, webinar series, workshops, presentations, etc.

Professional associations but also professionals at the implementation level (e.g.: the workforce of Health Centres) share their best practices. A maximum effort is given to disseminate these experiences. In return those members and partners are supported with advice for their own functioning and policy development.

EFPC participates in Europe-wide research, such as QUALICOPC (Evaluation of primary care in Europe), ORAMMA Project- Operation Refugee and Migrant Maternal Approach, EUR-Human Project (EUropean Refugees-HUman Movement and Advisory Network).

The EFPC acts as one of the active Allies Improving Primary Health Care which is an alliance setup by the Primary Health Care Performance Initiative (PHCPI).

The EFPC has its' official journal: Primary Health Care Research & Development! This is a fully open access journal aimed specifically at both researchers and practitioners in primary health care, bridging the gap between primary health care research, policy and practice.

The EFPC has different Working Groups on Primary Care sub-themes. WGs discuss specific topics/themes and produce statements or papers based on these discussions and other scientific and/or practice input. For example the EFPC statement on COVID-19: Reducing the Impacts on Vulnerable Groups followed by a BMJ opinion piece "Dealing with the collateral damage of covid-19: It's not all about cure—it's about care".

EFPC Position Papers (PP) are focused on the needs of patients or patient groups in their social context and the answers that organized, multidisciplinary primary care can give to address these needs. The latest PP was on "The health of detainees and the role of primary care".

The EFPC and its WG's supported by its members are responding to consultations of the WHO, Institute for Health Equity, EU, etc.