

Cittadinanzattiva & Active Citizenship Network

Cittadinanzattiva

- ❖ Italian NGO founded in 1978
- ❖ More than 100.000 volunteers, 270 local assemblies and 84 local centres
- ❖ Mission: promote active participation of citizens and protection of their rights



In 2007 we have been awarded a **gold medal** for our commitment to improving the public health system in Italy

Active Citizenship Network

- ❖ The European branch of Cittadinanzattiva, established in 2001
- ❖ One of the most widespread network, with more the 100 civic, patients and user organisations
- ❖ Promotes the European citizens' point of view in all public policies areas, focusing on healthcare, consumers and corporate social responsibility issues.

(EU) Active Citizenship approach

- Bottom-up
- Alliance building between organisations and groups
- Multistakeholder
- Citizen perspective
- National ↔ EU

Charter of rights: main features

A Charter of Rights is a document containing a set of rights which express ways to protect the more general right to Health, recognised by the (national and international) laws , but often unknown or violated.

Its main features:

- It is **based on civic participation and advocacy**
- It is not legal or technical, but it **comes from citizens' reports and complaints** about violations or inefficiencies
- It is a **grass root initiative**
- It enables the **concrete applications of rights** with specific actions and interventions.
- It should be **proclaimed and promoted** by all the relevant institutions and stakeholders, professionals, associations, citizens.



ACN experience in drafting the EU Charter of Patients' Rights



European Charter of Patients' rights (I)

In 2002, ACN, together with organizations from 15 EU countries, established the [European Charter of Patients' Rights](#). It lists 14 fundamental patients' rights, which each EU country must protect and guarantee. Drafted in 17 languages, it has become a reference for EU citizens' rights in healthcare and a milestone for other EU Charters.

Why?

- To bring together the inalienable patients' rights which each EU Member State should protect and guarantee
- To help building a European identity
- To facilitate dialogue among different stakeholders and for setting standards.

European Charter of Patients' rights (II)

14 fundamental Rights:

1. Preventive measures
2. Access to care
3. Information
4. Consent
5. Free choice
6. Privacy and confidentiality
7. Respect of patients' time
8. Observance of quality standards
9. Safety
10. Innovation
11. Avoid unnecessary suffering and pain
12. Personalized treatment
13. Complain
14. Compensation



European Charter of Patients' rights (III)

It has become a milestone and has inspired many other Charters of rights in Europe!

Carta de los Derechos en el Embarazo, parto, Cesárea y Nacimiento

Toda mujer, en relación con el embarazo, el trabajo de parto, el parto y el postparto, tiene los siguientes derechos:


- Decidir si tener hijos o no tenerlos, cuándo, cuántos tener, cada cuánto y con quién.
- Escoger el método anticonceptivo más adecuado a la edad, cultura, estado de salud,
- Vida sexual, relación de pareja y gusto personal.

Carta de Derechos del Afiliado y del Paciente y Carta de Desempeño



Derechos del niño hospitalizado

Carta Europea de los Derechos de los Niños Hospitalizados (13 de Mayo, 1986)



Endorsement at EU level

- The majority of those 14 rights are embodied within the Council conclusions on Common values and principles in EU Health Systems adopted in June 2006.
- The EU Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare officially recognizes the “**right to free choice**” and the “**right to information**” included in the European Charter of Patients' Rights.
 - Article 6 § 1 of the Directive establishes that “*Member States shall ensure that the national contact points consult with patient associations, healthcare providers and health insurance agencies*”, recognizing and enhancing also the ultimate principle of the European Charter of Patients' Rights, namely the “**right to participate in policymaking in the health field**”.

Endorsement at national level

Two examples:

- The Maltese government, which has widely recognised the rights included in the EU Charter and adopted them through the HEALTH ACT 2013 (Part VIII, **Patients' Rights and Safety**):

*“The Minister shall, within two years of the coming into force of this Part, publish a document to be known as the **Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities**”.*

- The Italian Ministry of Health has officially recognized the **right to avoid unnecessary suffering and pain** stated in the Charter, implementing the law no. 38 (15 March 2010) *“Dispositions to protect access to palliative care and pain therapy”.*

From the
EU Charter of Patients' Rights
to the new MEP Interest Group



European Patients' Rights Day



The reinforcement of patients' rights established in the EU Charter will become effective only with the cooperation and commitment of all healthcare stakeholders in every EU country.

For this reason, since 2007, Active Citizenship Network, together with citizens' and patients' organizations across Europe, has been taking the initiative to organise every year, on the same day, a European Patients' Rights Day in all the EU Member States.

It has become a **fixed appointment** in European political agenda to **inform, discuss and take commitments to improve patients' rights** in Europe and in each Member State.

Official endorsement by the EU Commission



**Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
Vytenis Andriukaitis**



EUROPEAN PATIENTS' RIGHTS DAY: 10 benefits the EU brings to patients

A high level of health protection; the right to benefit from medical treatment; access to healthcare - preventive, diagnostic and curative treatment regardless of financial means, gender or nationality. These principles are enshrined in the European Union's Treaty and its

Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU institutions are bound to them in their actions. On European Patients' Rights Day, let's take a look at some of the benefits of being a patient in the European Union. As an EU citizen, you can expect:

EU Patients' fact sheet

Official Endorsment by the EU Parliament

“The European Parliament recognizes the value of citizens’ initiatives, such as the European Charter of Patients’ Rights based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the European Patients’ Rights Day, which has been organised every year on 18 April since 2007; invites the Commission and the Member States to support the European Patients’ Rights Day at local, national and EU level”.

(Report on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance (2014/2207(INI))", approved by the European Parliament on 19 May 2015)

MEP Interest Group on Patients' Rights

The MEP Interest Group was officially launched on 2 December 2015.

The idea to encourage a MEPs informal Interest Group focused on patients' rights follows the widespread request of more than **100 civic and patient organizations** sent to the EU Parliament to **recognize officially the value of citizens' initiatives, such as the European Charter of Patients' Rights and the European Patients' Rights Day.**

It is the only Interest Group whose co-founders are the Presidents of two parliamentarian groups, who decided to support it because they strongly believe that the European Parliament has today the opportunity to play an active role in improving the protection of patients' rights in the European framework.



The First Charter of Patients' Rights in Colombia



1. *Derecho al Respeto por la persona* (Respect of patient)
2. *Derecho al Acceso* (Access to care)
3. *Derecho a la Información* (Information)
4. *Derecho a la Libre Elección* (Free Choice)
5. *Derecho a la Atención Oportuna* (Timely care)
6. *Derecho a la Atención Pertinente* (Personalised attention)
7. *Derecho a la Atención Continua* (Continuum of care)
8. *Derecho a la Atención Segura* (Safety)
9. *Derecho a la Intimidad* (Privacy)
10. *Derecho a la Promoción de la salud y prevención de la enfermedad* (Health promotion and preventative measures)
11. *Derecho a Reclamar.* (Complain)
12. *Derecho a la Participación* (Participation)

Thank you for your attention!

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