



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Liver Patient Voices in Action

🌿 **20TH ANNIVERSARY** 🌿

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ACRONYMS

ACHIEVE - Associations Collaborating on Hepatitis to Immunise and Eliminate the Viruses in Europe
AASLD - American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
ACLF - Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure
AWARH - Awareness Week on Alcohol-Related Harm
CEHC - Central European Hepatologic Collaboration
CHB - Chronic Hepatitis B
CSF - Civil Society Forum
DG - Directorate General
DiCE - Digestive Cancers Europe
DILI - Drug-Induced Liver Injury
EASL - European Association for the Study of the Liver
ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECPC - European Cancer Patient Coalition
EF Clif - European Foundation for the study of chronic liver failure
EIT - European Institute for Innovation and Technology
EKPF - European Kidney Patients' Federation
EMA - European Medicine Agency
EMCDDA - European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EPF - European Patients' Forum
ESCMID - European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
ESMO - European Society for Medical Oncology
ESPGHAN - European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition
EU - European Union
EURODIS - Rare Diseases Europe
ETW - European Testing Week
HBV - Hepatitis B Virus
HCV - Hepatitis C Virus
HDV - Hepatitis D Virus
HE - Hepatic Encephalopathy
HEP - Hepatitis
HERA - Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
HTAI - Health Technology Assessment International
ILC - International Liver Congress
ILCA - International Liver Cancer Association
LALD - Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency
LCAM - Liver Cancer Awareness Month
MAFLD - Metabolic-Associated Fatty Liver Disease
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
NAFLD - Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
NASH - Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
PCWP - Patients' and Consumers' Working Party
PFMD - Patient Focused Medicines Development
PWID - People Who Inject Drugs
SLTC - Screening and Linkage to Care
TAG - Technical Advisory Group
TB - Tuberculosis
UNAIDS - United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
VHPB - Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board
WHO - World Health Organisation

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Our Mission

The European Liver Patients' Association - ELPA - emerged in 2005 from a desire amongst European liver patients groups to share their experiences on the different approaches adopted in other countries. Nowadays, ELPA is an umbrella association representing 39 members from 29 different countries.

ELPA aims to promote the interests of people with liver disease and, in particular: to highlight the size of the problem, to promote awareness and prevention, to address the low profile of liver disease; to share the experience of successful initiatives; to work with professional bodies to ensure that treatment and care are harmonised across Europe to the highest standards. ELPA's vision is that all liver patients are diagnosed in time, are treated with respect, and have equal access to the best standard of medical care – regardless of origin, lifestyle, and type of liver disease.

ELPA's efforts are focused on three main pillars.

Member Empowerment

ELPA was established by patients, is governed by patients, and represents patients. We put much effort into organising training, promoting capacity building, and stimulating networking. We have eight different working groups to boost expert patients to acquire knowledge in a specific field of liver disease.

Policy and Advocacy

As an umbrella patients' association, ELPA acts as an intermediary between all the involved stakeholders - the national patients' communities, the scientific community, the industry, and the policymakers. We provide a crucial perspective due to our immediate and direct access to the patients' lives and to the best practices in a national and regional context.

ELPA is a member of:

- Advisory forum and expert group on HBV and HCV at ECDC.
- Patient and Consumer Working Party and Management Board at EMA.
- Advisory Forum - Civil Society Forum at HERA.
- Expert group on HIV, TB, and hepatitis at WHO.
- Expert board at VHPB.
- HTA Stakeholder Network at DG SANTE.
- Advisory Council for Europe, Middle East & Africa (ACEMEA) in the framework of the Drug Information Association (DIA).

To better communicate with supporters and stakeholders, ELPA has obtained the ISO 9001:2015 quality standard in 2021, making it the 1st umbrella patients' association in Europe with a quality management system.

Participation in Medical Research Projects

ELPA is part of 20 EU-funded medical research projects. The participation of patients' associations in these projects is relatively new; nevertheless, being part of them enriches the research field.

ELPA Values



Equality



Respect for
diversity



Patient
driven



Commitment



Transparency

Foreword of the President



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends of ELPA,

It is with great pride that we present the 2025 Annual Report of the European Liver Patient Association (ELPA). Reflecting on the past year, marked by both progress and challenges, one constant stands out: our commitment to improving the lives of people living with liver disease remains steadfast.

ELPA's work continues to be guided by three core priorities: empowering our members, advancing policy and advocacy, and contributing to scientific progress.

The strength of ELPA lies in its members. Over the past year, we have further invested in reinforcing their capacities through targeted initiatives, training activities, and joint projects. By providing patient organisations with the tools, expertise, and resources they need, we enable them to deliver high-quality support and representation for liver patients across Europe.

Advocacy on behalf of liver patients remains central to our mission. In 2025, ELPA continued to engage closely with policymakers, healthcare professionals, and strategic partners to promote policies that place patients at the centre of decision-making. Through sustained awareness-raising and patient-driven advocacy, we work towards a healthcare environment that responds to the real needs of those affected by liver disease.

Scientific innovation plays a vital role in shaping the future of liver care. This year, ELPA has deepened its collaboration with the research community to ensure that patient perspectives are embedded in research, innovation, and the development of new therapies. By actively contributing to scientific dialogue, we help drive progress that improves patient outcomes and quality of life.

As the field of liver health continues to evolve, ELPA remains a source of strength, a catalyst for change, and a trusted voice for patients. While challenges lie ahead, our resolve to address them—together with our members and partners—has never been stronger.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our members, partners, and supporters for their continued commitment. Together, we will keep working to make a lasting and meaningful difference for people living with liver diseases.

Together we are stronger!

Marko Korenjak

ELPA Members in 2025



ALBANIA

- Albanian Association "Patients with hepatitis"



BELGIUM

- Vlaams Hepatitis Contactpunt - VHC



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

- The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association - B18



CROATIA

- HUHIV - Croatian Association for HIV and viral hepatitis



CYPRUS

- Cyprus Liver Patients Association - Promitheas



DENMARK

- Leverforeningen



EGYPT

- Association of Liver Patients' Care – ALPC



FINLAND

- The Finnish Kidney and Liver Association



FRANCE

- Fédération SOS hépatites & Maladies du foie,
- Fédération des Déficiants et Transplantés Hépatiques - TRANSHÉPATE



GEORGIA

- Hepatitis C Cured Patient Association



HUNGARY

- Hungarian Association of Chronic Hepatitis Patients - VIMOR



IRELAND

- Hepatitis C Partnership



ISRAEL

- Israeli Association For The Health Of the Liver - Hetz



ITALY

- Italian Association for Research on Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis - AIRCS

**KAZAKHSTAN**

- Anti Hepatitis C Organisation - AGEPC

**MONTENEGRO**

- 4Life

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

- Association for health education, prevention and better treatment - HEPTA,
- Hepar Centar - Bitola

**NORWAY**

- proLAR

**POLAND**

- Star of Hope Foundation

**PORTUGAL**

- SOS Hépatis Portugal

**ROMANIA**

- Patients with hepatic impairment Association of Romania - APAH-RO

**RUSSIA**

- Humanitarian Action, United Against Hepatitis

**SERBIA**

- Association for helping patients with chronic viral hepatitis - HRONOS

**SLOVAKIA**

- HEP HELP KLUB, Šanca pre pečeň,
- Slovak Coalition of People with Obesity and Overweight - SKLON

**SLOVENIA**

- Association - SLOVENIJA HEP

**SPAIN**

- Catalan Association of Liver Patients - ASSCAT,
- Catalan Federation of Rare Diseases - FECAMM,
- National Federation of Liver Patients and Transplanted - FNETH,
- LAL-D Patient Organization

**SWEDEN**

- Riksföreningen Hepatit C – RHC

**TURKEY**

- Living with Hepatitis Association - HEPYAŞAM

**UNITED KINGDOM**

- British Liver Trust,
- Hep C Positive,
- Liver4Life



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting with the EU Commissioner responsible for health

On September 18, 2025, some ELPA representatives met with Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner responsible for health and animal welfare, to discuss liver health in the context of the broader EU public health agenda.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner responsible for health and animal welfare - Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office - Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs

From risk to action: Preventing liver health crises through NCD literacy and care

The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) successfully organised a high-level policy event titled "From Risk to Action: Preventing Liver Health Crises through NCD Literacy and Care" at the European Parliament in Brussels on December 4, 2025.

The event brought together 120 attendees: patients, policymakers, clinicians, public health experts, and researchers to tackle an urgent challenge: how to prevent liver disease by improving public awareness, early detection, and coordinated care across Europe. Hosted in collaboration with Members of the European Parliament and supported by scientific bodies, the day highlighted the growing burden of liver diseases — from metabolic dysfunction-associated conditions to alcohol-related damage — and their place within the broader non-communicable disease (NCD) agenda. ELPA played a pivotal role in giving patients a platform to share their experiences, making the issue real and urgent for policymakers. The event spotlighted how individuals living with liver conditions often encounter delays in diagnosis and barriers to care — gaps that could be closed by better health literacy and more coordinated systems. Real-world testimonies, paired with scientific insights, underscore the importance of prevention, not just treatment, in Europe's health policies. A key outcome from the Brussels meeting was a renewed call to integrate liver health into EU-level prevention frameworks and NCD policies, ensuring that public awareness campaigns, screening

programmes, and care pathways are strengthened across Member States. ELPA's leadership in organizing this event reflects the association's ongoing advocacy to place liver disease at the heart of European health agendas and to empower patients with knowledge and resources for better health outcomes.



Patrizia Burra, Public Affairs Group Chair, United European Gastroenterology - Daniel Eadle, Patient advocate - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - Sarah-Taïssir Bencharif, Moderator, From risk to action: Preventing liver health crises through NCD literacy and care



Kremlin Wickramasinghe, Regional Advisor for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at WHO Europe, From risk to action: Preventing liver health crises through NCD literacy and care



Frederick Martinez, Policy Officer, Cancer Patient Europe (CPE) - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis - MEP Nicholas Papandreou, From risk to action: Preventing liver health crises through NCD literacy and care



Giacomo Donnini, Program Director, Global Liver Institute (GLI) - Manuel Castro Cabezas, Associate Professor of Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam - Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - MEP Aurelijus Veryga - MEP András Tivadar Kulja - Sarah-Taïssir Bencharif, Moderator, From risk to action: Preventing liver health crises through NCD literacy and care



Liver Screening in Athens

ELPA, in partnership with Greek Member of the European Parliament Nikos Papandreou, brought a major liver health screening campaign to Piraeus, Athens, from December 8 to 11, 2025.



Liver Screening in Athens, Group picture

The initiative aimed to promote early detection of liver disease and raise public awareness about liver health, echoing similar preventive efforts pioneered by ELPA across Europe. The screening events were organised with support from the Piraeus Medical Association and local healthcare professionals, offering residents non-invasive liver checks and information on risk factors such as fatty liver disease, viral hepatitis, and other chronic conditions. This initiative follows earlier awareness work endorsed by Papandreou, who has been actively involved in European public health discussions, including liver disease and cancer policy reform in his capacity as a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health. ELPA's involvement in Piraeus comes after growing momentum from its advocacy and screening campaigns, including liver health outreach organised around the European Parliament in Brussels. These screenings aim to catch liver disease before symptoms appear, when interventions can be most effective — a key priority underscored by ELPA's broader work to advance liver screening and early care initiatives. Local Greek press and Papandreou's public communications (including social media channels such as Facebook) amplified the campaign's message, encouraging citizens to participate in free or accessible screenings and get



George Papadopoulos, Endoscopiki Sales Development Manager, Liver Screening in Athens

informed about liver health — especially at a time when silent conditions like metabolic liver disease are on the rise. The Piraeus liver screening initiative represents a tangible step in bringing prevention services closer to communities, empowering people with practical health tools, and strengthening partnerships between patient organisations, physicians, and policymakers.

Features in newspapers

The Parliament: 'Campaigners call for action to tackle 'silent epidemic' of fatty liver disease', July 3, 2025.

Euronews: 'Liver cancer cases could double by 2050. A new study says 60% are preventable', July 29, 2025

The Parliament: 'The missing link in cardiovascular prevention: why liver screening must be a priority for Europe', October 16, 2025.



ISO QUALITY STANDARD CERTIFICATE 1st patients' association in Europe

ELPA is now the FIRST umbrella liver patient association in Europe with the official certification of the Quality Management System in place. ELPA managed to build a quality system of its work, was recognised by an external certification body and got the ISO 9001:2015 certificate related to its Management in Communication with Supporters and Stakeholders.

The purpose of ISO 9001:2015 is to help an organisation develop a robust Quality Management System to respond to evolving quality requirements in line with changing social, economic, and environmental expectations.

Implementing a Quality Management System in a nonprofit organisation like ELPA means:

- To rethink an organisation: why it exists; what are the priorities; how does it relate to its environment; how does it work; and what should be measured and improved.

- To develop a consistent way of working and monitoring thanks to the process approach and risk management.
- It serves internally to make deadlines and processes clear.
- To reinforce the message of clarity, trust, and professionalism towards supporters and donors.
- To enhance donors, supporters, beneficiaries, the general public, and stakeholders' satisfaction.

ELPA's work is reassessed each year, and 2024 marked the fourth year of the confirmation of the system. ELPA will continue improving its communication with Supporters and Stakeholders, showing its high level of professionalism and commitment towards liver patients.



LIVER CANCER

European Liver Screening Week 2025

In conjunction with the social media campaign for Liver Cancer Awareness Month, ELPA organised its third Liver Screening Week in front of the European Parliament.

From September 29 to October 3, 2025, ELPA was present in front of the European Parliament with two vans equipped with a Fibroscan, a medical device that enables a quick, painless, and non-invasive examination of the liver, assessing its elasticity and the amount of fatty tissue. One of the vans belonged to ELPA's member association Liver4Life, while the second one was the property of ELPA's member association



Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner responsible for health and animal welfare - Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office, European Liver Screening Week 2025



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner responsible for health and animal welfare - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, European Liver Screening Week 2025



SOS Hépatites. Over the course of the week, 560 participants underwent liver screening with our team, and many more people stopped by the vans to gather information on the procedure and the activities of the participating associations. The event also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about early liver testing in relation to liver diseases, considering that they often do not present symptoms until the sickness is already advanced and therefore harder to cure. Placed under the patronage of the European Parliament, and the active support of numerous patient organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders the event amplified its reach and impact. This year's edition also welcomed Olivér Várhelyi, the EU Commissioner responsible for health and animal welfare.

October Liver Cancer Awareness Month 2025



FATTY LIVER

Bridging the Gaps Call to Action

For the first time, patient communities representing liver disease, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease are joining forces to confront a shared public health crisis.

These chronic conditions are biologically and socially interconnected, compounding their impact on individuals and health systems across Europe. Each is worsened by stigma, delayed diagnosis, fragmented care, and inadequate access to effective treatment—yet policy responses remain siloed. Today, these communities speak with one voice to urge integrated strategies that prioritise prevention, timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and long-term management—because addressing one means addressing all in this call to action.

BRIDGING THE GAPS

Call to Action: **United for a Healthier Future**

BRIDGING THE GAP



This unprecedented alliance between patient communities marks a turning point. Liver disease does not exist in isolation—it is deeply connected to obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. By advocating together, we can push for holistic policies and integrated healthcare systems that address the root causes and improve outcomes for all. ELPA stands proudly with our partners in demanding a healthier, more equitable future.

Marko Korenjak, ELPA President



BRIDGING THE GAP



The future of chronic disease prevention and management depends on shifting from an organ-specific lens to a person-centred, system-wide model—only then will we be able to bend the rising curve of diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular, liver, and kidney diseases. IDF Europe is proud to support the Call to Action United for a Healthier Future and stands ready to help drive lasting change by uniting its voice with the other communities.

Elisabeth Dupont, IDF Europe Regional Manager



BRIDGING THE GAP



Bridging the Gap' is more than an initiative — it's a vital call to unite patient voices across cardiovascular, renal, and metabolic diseases in Europe. Together, we're not just addressing obesity and other NCDs — we're driving a movement powered by science, grounded in research, and fueled by lived experience. Join us in turning shared challenges into collective action.

Vicki Mooney, Executive Director, ECPO



BRIDGING THE GAP



People living with interconnected conditions are an increasing reality, and there is an urgent need for healthcare systems to provide holistic, integrated care. The Bridge the Gap initiative is timely and aligns with Global Heart Hub's increased focus on connected cardiovascular conditions. It is so important that we all work together as a united voice in support of patients and their carers.

Neil Johnson, GHH Executive Director



World Obesity Day 2025

On March 4, it released a video interview with Dr Linnea Aitokari, a medical doctor specialising in general medicine and an accomplished researcher. Dr. Aitokari recently completed her doctoral dissertation on the prevalence and screening practices of liver diseases in children, focusing on conditions like metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and liver enzyme abnormalities.

Her groundbreaking research highlights the increasing prevalence of fatty liver disease in children, especially among those with obesity, and advocates for more precise and age-specific screening practices. This work is not only pivotal for advancing our understanding of pediatric liver diseases but also emphasises the importance of early lifestyle interventions in mitigating severe outcomes.

Currently practising at Valkeakoski Health Center, Dr Aitokari combines her clinical expertise with her passion for research, striving to improve healthcare practices and outcomes for children. Watch the video on YouTube.



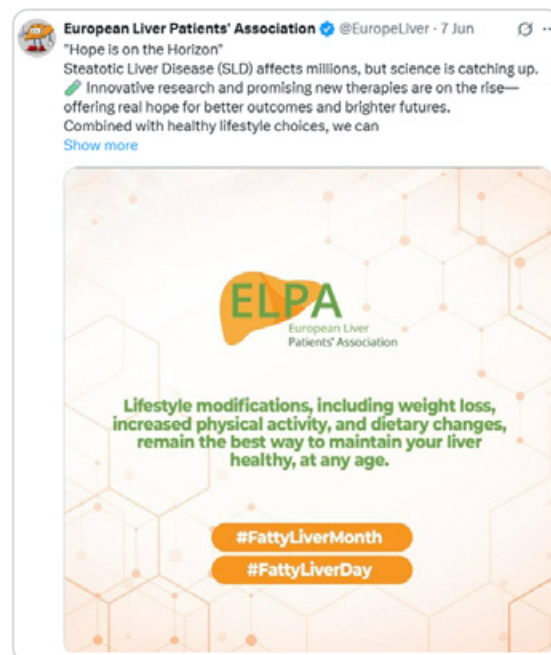
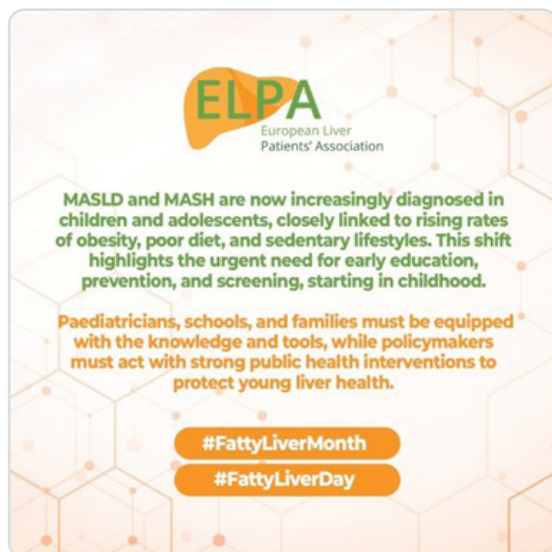
Fatty Liver & NCDs: A European Policy Action

On June 3, 2025, ELPA organised a pivotal event that signalled a turning point in the fight against a silent but pervasive public health threat: Steatotic (Fatty) Liver Disease.

Titled "Fatty Liver & NCDs: A European Policy Action", the event was held at the European Parliament, and it was attended by patient leaders, medical experts, policymakers, and public health advocates. The outcome of the event was summarised in an article featured in The Parliament Magazine.



Fatty Liver Awareness Month 2025



Bridging the Gaps - second edition

The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) actively contributed to the second edition of "Bridging the Gaps", a two-day collaborative event held on December 1 and 2, 2025, bringing together patient representatives and clinicians from across Europe to address the growing burden of interconnected chronic diseases.

The meeting focused on the strong links between obesity, liver disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease, highlighting the urgent need for integrated prevention, screening, and care models. Patient organisations from across these disease areas were represented, including ELPA, the Global Heart Hub (GHH), the European Coalition for People living with Obesity (ECPO), the International Diabetes



SLD ELPA Working Group: Tarja Teitto-Tuckett, The Finnish Kidney and Liver Association – Sindee Wenbaum, Israeli Association for the Health of the Liver, Hetz - Yiannoula Koulla, Promitheas, Cyprus – Teresa Casanovas ELPA Scientific Assessor, Bridging the Gaps - second edition

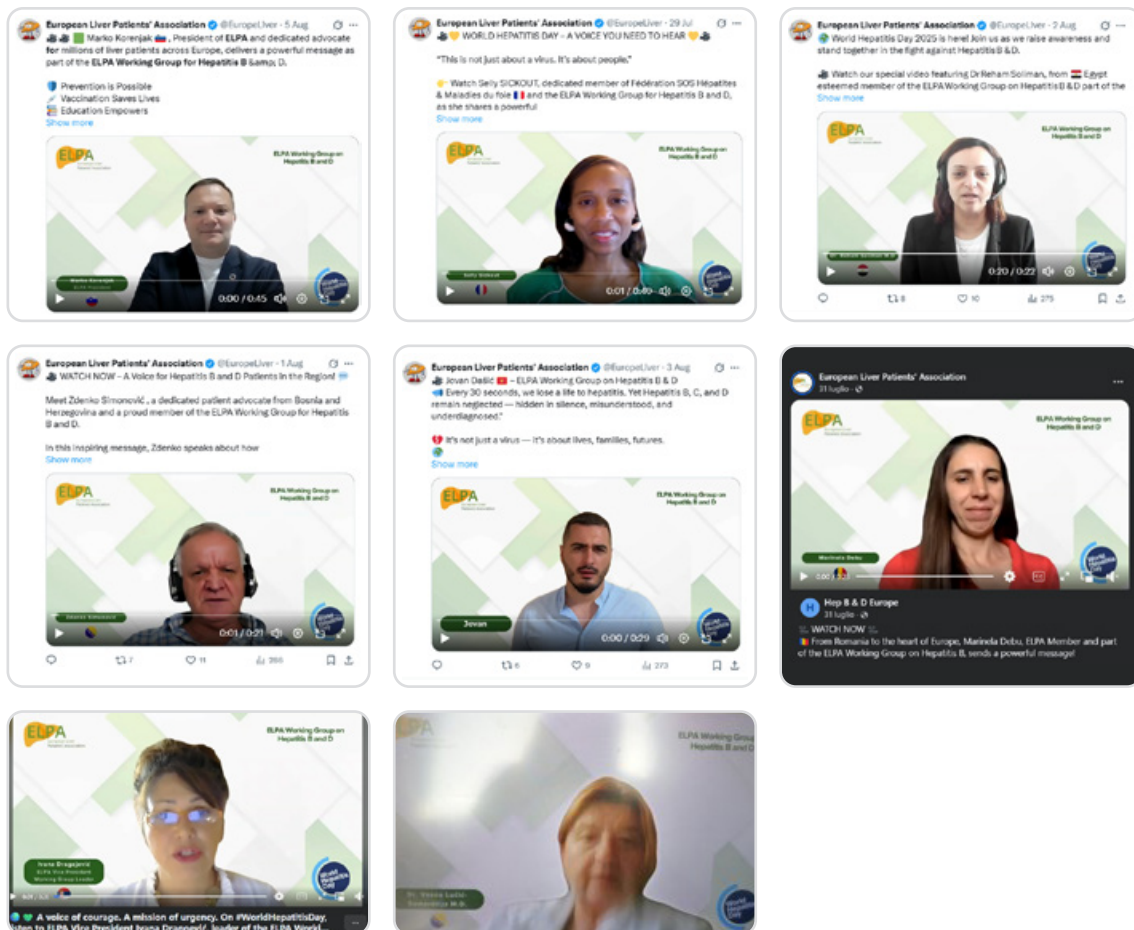
Federation Europe (IDFE) and the European Kidney Patients Federation (EKPF) — ensuring that lived experience remained central to the discussions. ELPA's representatives were from the Steatotic Liver Disease (SLD) Working Group, reinforcing the association's commitment to addressing metabolic-related liver conditions such as MASLD and MASH. These liver diseases are closely connected to obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular risk, and chronic kidney disease, yet are often overlooked in broader non-communicable disease (NCD) strategies. In sessions, participants explored how cross-disease collaboration can help break down silos between specialties and patient communities. Throughout the event, patient representatives shared first-hand experiences of navigating fragmented healthcare systems, delayed diagnoses, and the stigma associated with chronic metabolic conditions. These testimonies underscored the need for improved health literacy, earlier screening, and multidisciplinary care pathways that reflect the reality of people living with multiple conditions. ELPA highlighted liver health being fully integrated into EU-level NCD policies and prevention frameworks. By participating through its SLD Working Group, ELPA reinforced the message that liver patients should not be left behind in discussions on obesity, diabetes, heart health, and kidney health. The second edition of *Bridging the Gap* confirmed the growing momentum for patient-led, cross-disease collaboration in Europe. By uniting voices across liver, cardiovascular, kidney, diabetes and obesity communities, the event marked an important step toward more holistic, patient-centred approaches to chronic disease prevention and care.

VIRAL HEPATITIS

World Hepatitis Day: ELPA Working Group videos

Starting from July, ELPA published a series of videos featuring the members of the Working Group on Hepatitis B and D.

With a short statement, each member emphasised a message related to World Hepatitis Day and the role and importance of the ELPA Working Group in raising awareness towards Hepatitis elimination.



RARE LIVER DISEASE

Rare Liver Disease Week 2025

In celebration of World Rare Disease Day 2025 (February 28), the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) once again dedicated an entire week—Rare Liver Disease Week—to raise awareness, foster collaboration, and spotlight the challenges faced by individuals living with rare liver conditions. Held during the first week of March, this year's theme focused on sharing impactful statements from the ELPA Rare Liver Diseases Working Group, reflecting the outcomes of year-long efforts and discussions. These statements addressed critical areas of concern, such as access to specialised care, the emotional and physical burden on patients and families, and the systemic gaps that still hinder the diagnosis and treatment of rare liver diseases.



A central highlight of the week was the Working Group's emphasis on multidimensional support systems, beginning with the urgent need for sustainable financial assistance for patients and caregivers. Many living with rare liver diseases face not only medical complexities but also overwhelming economic pressures due to limited access to employment, frequent hospital visits, and the cost of specialised treatments. The group also reinforced the importance of community engagement, advocating for creating more inclusive platforms that amplify the voices of patients and their families. Another key point was the recognition of caregivers as essential pillars in the care continuum. Their daily contributions, often undervalued and unsupported, were acknowledged as vital to both emotional and clinical outcomes. Rare Liver Disease Week 2025 thus served not only as a moment of visibility but also as a catalyst for long-term advocacy and policy change rooted in the lived experiences and expertise of the rare liver disease community.

Global PSC Awareness Day

October 29, 2025

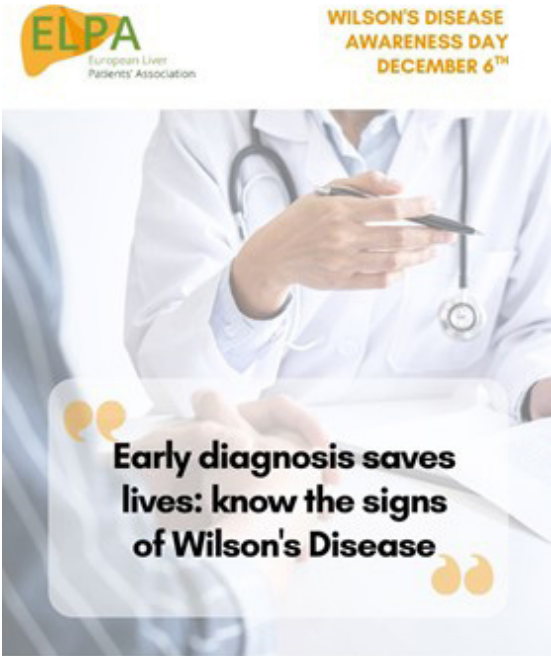


Primary Biliary Cholangitis Awareness Day 2025



Wilson’s Disease Awareness Day

December 6, 2025



MORE AND MORE

ELPA Podcast



World Cancer Day 2025

On World Cancer Day, February 4, 2025, the European Liver Patient Association (ELPA), in partnership with Cancer Patients Europe - CPE and the College of Europe, came together to celebrate resilience, unity, and the unstoppable spirit of young people facing cancer.

Our campaign transcended liver cancer, we united other cancer patients across Europe, amplifying their voices and demanding change.

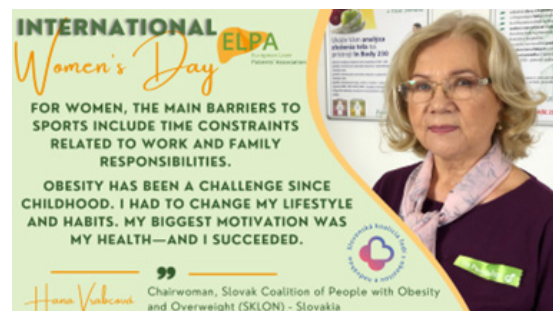
Through the inspiring testimonies of brave, determined young individuals who have faced cancer, we shed light on their courage, their dreams, and their drive to make a difference. Their stories must be heard, and their experiences must fuel action from policymakers to improve cancer care for all. These are not just stories of survival—they are testimonies to ambition, determination, and a future full of possibilities. It's time to build a Europe where every young cancer patient has the support and care they need to thrive. Watch the video on YouTube.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science



International Women's Day 2025



World Liver Day 2025

On April 19, 2025, ELPA celebrated World Liver Day with a campaign dedicated to giving a voice to all the partners in the scientific project it is involved in. Below are some examples of posts.







SALVATORE PIANO
Associate Professor of Medicine
University and Hospital of Padova, Italy

LIVERAIM is developing innovative screening tools based on biomarkers to detect chronic liver disease earlier and guide more personalized treatment approaches.



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LIVERAIM Project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative and underlying H2020 under grant agreement No 101019749. The project receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and HPA, CORDIS, Horizon Europe, Horizon Europe and Horizon Europe.



POLICY AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Focus on European Health Policy

EU Health Summit 2025

The EU Health Coalition organised the EU Health Summit on January 28, 2025. ELPA was part of the second panel dedicated to sustainability in the health sector.



Healthy populations are essential for Europe to achieve its vision of a secure, competitive, and prosperous continent. Yet, European health systems are navigating a perfect storm: ageing populations, rising chronic diseases, and a health workforce under strain. European societies are facing combined cost-of-living, geopolitical, and climate crises with significant implications for healthcare. Amid these challenges, we must not lose sight of the extraordinary era we are living in—one of rapidly advancing science and innovation, transforming health and unlocking new possibilities for Europe's present and future generations. Keeping the health sector high on the political agenda is essential for the well-being of Europeans, a resilient workforce, the growth of the EU economy, and the security of Europe. The Summit put together stakeholders to discuss why, during this EU mandate, we need a robust and integrated strategy for health policy.

EUROCARE policy meetings

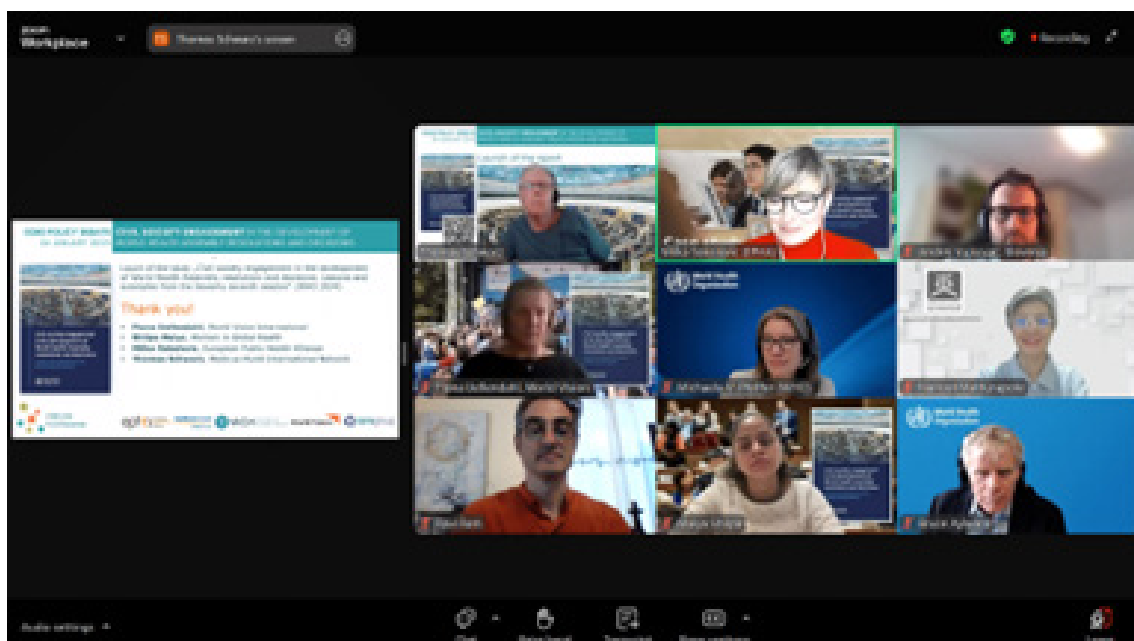
In 2025 ELPA took part in Eurocare policy meetings to discuss the future association's steps in the field of advocacy.

Eurocare is an alliance of non-governmental and public health organisations across Europe advocating for the prevention and reduction of alcohol-related harm. Member organisations, such as ELPA, are involved in advocacy and research, providing information and training on alcohol issues and services for people whose lives are affected by alcohol problems. Eurocare's mission is to promote policies that prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm.

Launch of CSO Commission working group study “Civil society engagement in the development of WHA resolutions and decisions”

ELPA attended the launch of CSO Commission working group study “Civil society engagement in the development of WHA resolutions and decisions” on January 24, 2025.

This landmark publication, co-authored by EPHA's Director General Milka Sokolović and three other members of the Steering Committee, Shilpa Maiya, Thomas Schwarz and Fiona Uellendahl, reflects a year-long effort to evaluate civil society's involvement in shaping critical global health resolutions and decisions at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA77) held in May 2024. The report provides a comprehensive review of civil society's engagement in drafting three key WHA77 documents: the WHA Resolution on Social Participation, the WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work, and the WHA Resolution on Climate Change and Health. For each document, the study examines the dynamics between civil society, the WHO Secretariat, and Member States, detailing the challenges, successes, and lessons learned. By embracing the key lessons, the WHO Secretariat, Member States and civil society will strengthen their commitment to participatory governance, making health policies more responsive, equitable, and effective. The launch webinar presented the report's key findings and evidence-based recommendations, featuring contributions from the study co-authors and leading experts in global health, followed by a panel discussion to explore the practical implications of the report's conclusions.



HTA Regulation is Here, What Now?

On February 11 and 12, 2025, the Ministry of Health of Slovenia organised a pivotal two-day gathering dedicated to the newly implemented HTA Regulation and its implications for health technology assessment across Member States.

The event brought together policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss the future of HTA in a rapidly evolving landscape. Throughout the event, participants had the opportunity to engage in high-level discussions and interactive workshops. Key topics included innovations in HTA methodologies, evidence-informed decision-making and strategies for implementing HTA Regulation into healthcare systems. In addition, the discussions focused on practical applications of HTA, including early assessments and lifecycle approaches, evidence-based decision-making in healthcare organisations, Rapid Relative Effectiveness Assessments and HTAR Joint Clinical Assessments. This event was designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, providing a platform to share best practices and explore new opportunities in HTA. ELPA President Marko Korenjak was part of the final panel discussion on the Future of HTA and the key opportunities ahead.



Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office, HTA Regulation is Here, What Now?

Building Momentum: Integrating Health into the European Semester

On February 6, 2025, Cancer Patients Europe (CPE) held an event at the European Parliament titled “Building Momentum: Integrating Health into the European Semester”.

This is the latest activity implemented by CPE in its initiative to integrate health and a pilot on cancer into the European Semester process. Pioneered by a jointly written European Semester manifesto, CPE sought to build on the momentum gained in 2024 by bringing together key stakeholders to advocate for the integration of health, focusing on cancer, into the process. The event was a platform to encourage discussion amongst key players linked to the European Semester, including Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), representatives of the European Commission from DG Health and DG Employment, and the Committee of the Regions. Additional speakers also included representatives from the OECD, the patient community and civil society. This multi-stakeholder engagement underscored the collaborative approach necessary to address the complex challenges surrounding cancer care in Europe.

Unlocking Europe's Future: Prioritising Health under the next Multiannual Financial Framework

At the “Unlocking Europe's Future: Prioritising Health under the next Multiannual Financial Framework” event held on March 26, 2025, at the European Parliament, ELPA actively participated in discussions emphasising the critical role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in shaping EU health policies.

The event, hosted by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Tilly Metz, Stine Bosse, Vytenis Andriukaitis, and András Tivadar Kulja, brought together stakeholders to address the challenges faced by CSOs, including funding constraints and limited involvement in policymaking processes. ELPA underscored the importance of sustained and stable funding to empower CSOs to effectively contribute to the EU's health objectives.

Take-home messages from the event: make health a central pillar of the EU budget, ensure stable and sustainable funding for health NGOs, and involve CSOs from the outset to achieve the health objectives in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). These points reflect a collective call to action, emphasizing that meaningful engagement and adequate support for CSOs are essential for advancing public health across Europe.

VHPB Technical meeting: Viral hepatitis in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan – Prevention and control of viral hepatitis as cancer prevention opportunities

At the VHPB technical meeting titled “Viral Hepatitis in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan” held on March 27–28, 2025, the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) played a pivotal role in emphasising the patient perspective in the fight against liver cancer.

Together with the participation of Ivana Dragojevic, ELPA Vice President, Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director, delivered a compelling presentation on March 28, focusing on the adequacy of awareness and prevention strategies for liver cancer among patients, their families, and at-risk groups. His insights underscored the necessity of patient-centred approaches in public health initiatives, particularly in enhancing health literacy and vaccine confidence to prevent viral hepatitis-induced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). ELPA's involvement in the congress aligns with its broader mission to advocate for liver patients across Europe. By participating in discussions on integrating viral hepatitis management into cancer prevention strategies, ELPA highlighted the importance of equitable access to screening, vaccination, and treatment services. Their contribution reinforced the call for collaborative efforts among patient organisations, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to achieve the WHO's goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

DIA Europe 2025

On March 18–20, 2025, at DIA Europe in Basel, ELPA President Marko Korenjak highlighted the importance of embedding patient voices in all aspects of healthcare innovation and policy development.

He emphasised that sustainable healthcare solutions cannot be achieved without direct input from patients, particularly those living with chronic conditions such as liver disease. His contributions at the conference reinforced the growing recognition that patient experiences must guide the design of more responsive and effective healthcare systems. Korenjak also stressed the need for long-term, inclusive healthcare policies that consider the specific challenges faced by liver patients across Europe. He advocated for increased collaboration between patient organisations, regulators, researchers, and industry stakeholders to foster a healthcare environment where patient engagement is encouraged and expected. By participating in high-level dialogues like DIA Europe, ELPA continues to push for systemic change that prioritises patient-centred care and equitable access to medical innovation.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - other participants, DIA Europe 2025

Gateway to Better Health: the case for coordinated EU level action on obesity

ELPA representatives attended “Gateway to Better Health: The Case for Coordinated EU Level Action on Obesity” on March 4, 2025, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Organised by the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) this timely gathering, held on World Obesity Day, addressed the challenges of diagnosing and managing obesity—which is recognised by both the WHO and European Commission as a complex chronic disease and gateway to numerous other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The policy event brought together EU policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and experts to explore potential policy actions within the 2024-2029 mandate, featuring patient testimonies and expert panel discussions on reducing the European burden of NCDs and developing a coordinated plan for EU action on obesity.

Info session on the Commission's proposal for a Critical Medicines Act

On April 29, 2025, ELPA representatives attended the info session on the Commission's proposal for a Critical Medicines Act organised by DG SANTE.

In March 2025, the European Commission proposed the Critical Medicines Act to improve the availability, supply and production of critical medicines within the EU. The CMA also aims to increase access to other medicines of common interest, such as those for rare diseases, and to address the fact that some medicines are not available in certain markets.

CMA – key features:

Strategic Projects for critical medicines or their ingredients can be designated, so that they benefit from easier access to funding and fast-tracked procedures.

Public procurement to incentivise the resilience of supply chains of critical medicines or to improve access to other medicines of common interest.

Collaborative procurement among different member states will be supported by the Commission at the request of member states, to address availability and access disparities of critical medicines and other medicines of common interest.

International partnerships with like-minded countries/regions will be explored, to broaden the supply chain and reduce dependencies on single suppliers.

State aid guidelines to assist member states in financially supporting such strategic projects.

The CMA has been proposed in the context of the European Health Union, which seeks to ensure that all EU citizens have access to necessary medicines. It complements regulatory measures already proposed, notably the reform of EU pharmaceutical legislation.

19th European Patients' Rights Day

On European Patients' Rights Day 2025, ELPA proudly joined a critical conversation on one of the most transformative issues in modern healthcare: health data sharing.

This year's event brought together policymakers, healthcare professionals, digital experts, and patient advocates to explore how health data can serve the public good when used ethically and responsibly. With the rapid advancement of digital tools and artificial intelligence, health data is now recognised as a powerful resource in shaping more effective, personalised, and inclusive care. However, many patients remain unaware of how their data is used or how it could be shared back with them to improve their own health management. During the event organised by Active Citizenship Network on May 15, 2025, speakers emphasised the importance of transparency, consent, and empowerment in building a trustworthy digital health environment. A central focus was the European Health Data Space (EHDS). Speakers, including Fulvia Raffaelli (European Commission) and MEP Tomislav Sokol, highlighted how the EHDS is set to transform patient care, research, and innovation while reinforcing data privacy and security safeguards. Marko Korenjak,

President of ELPA, represented the liver patient community in a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussing the benefits of returning health data to patients. He stressed that transparency and patient data access are not just technological issues, but fundamental rights. Sharing real-world insights from liver patients, Korenjak pointed out that empowered patients who understand and access their health data become more engaged and will likely experience better health outcomes. Other panellists presented EU-funded projects IHI FACILITATE and PROPHET, reinforcing that ethical, patient-centred data sharing is not only possible—it's already happening. However, participants agreed that we need stronger protections, simplified consent mechanisms, and increased patient awareness to scale these efforts. In his closing remarks, Jakub Adamski from the Office of the Commissioner for Patients' Rights emphasised the need for sustained cooperation among all stakeholders.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - other participants, 19th European Patients' Rights Day

ESPGHAN Congress 2025

ELPA actively participated in the ESPGHAN Congress 2025, held from May 21 to 24, 2025.

The congress, organised by the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, served as a key platform for sharing the latest research, clinical advances, and collaborative efforts in paediatric liver and digestive health. During the event, ELPA representatives engaged in meaningful exchanges with clinicians, researchers, and other stakeholders, emphasising the critical role of patient and caregiver perspectives in shaping paediatric hepatology care. ELPA highlighted the specific needs of children living with liver diseases and their families, including the importance of early diagnosis, psychosocial



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Julio Burman, ELPA Vice President - ESPGHAN Governance, ESPGHAN Congress 2025

support, and the transition from paediatric to adult care. By contributing to panel discussions and networking sessions, ELPA reinforced its commitment to improving outcomes for young liver patients and advocating for more inclusive, patient-centred approaches within paediatric healthcare systems across Europe. Their presence at ESPGHAN 2025 helped strengthen partnerships and raise awareness of the challenges faced by families navigating paediatric liver conditions.

ECO Congress 2025

ELPA was proud to participate in the 32nd European Congress on Obesity (ECO 2025), held from May 11 to 14, 2025. As obesity remains a significant risk factor for liver-related conditions such as MAFLD and MASH, the congress offered a vital opportunity for ELPA to engage with the broader medical and

scientific community working on metabolic health and its impact on the liver. One of the key highlights of ELPA's participation was the presentation of a poster on the results of the European Screening Week 2024, during which ELPA conducted free liver health screenings for 300 people in front of the European Parliament in Brussels. The initiative aimed to raise awareness of liver disease risk factors, particularly among individuals with obesity or metabolic syndrome, and to promote early detection through accessible, community-based interventions. The results emphasised the importance of proactive screening strategies in public spaces and demonstrated how partnerships between patient organisations and public health institutions can lead to meaningful impact. In addition to the poster presentation, ELPA Director Ivana Dragojević and Veronika Všetická took part in networking sessions and discussions on the intersection of obesity, liver health, and public policy. Their contribution reinforced the urgent need for cross-sector collaboration and the inclusion of patient voices in shaping future prevention and treatment strategies. Through its presence at ECO 2025, ELPA continued to advocate for early diagnosis, increased awareness, and improved pathways to care for people at risk of liver disease.



Veronika Všetická, ELPA Head of EU Affairs - Ivana Dragojević, ELPA Vice President, ECO 2025

Connecting the Dots: Obesity, Digestive Diseases and Cancers

On June 5, 2025, United European Gastroenterology (UEG) hosted the high-level policy event “Connecting the Dots: Obesity, Digestive Diseases and Cancers” at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The meeting brought together policymakers, clinicians, researchers, patient advocates, and public health leaders to address Europe’s growing obesity crisis and its link to digestive diseases and cancer. ELPA



Director Milan Mishkovikj delivered a powerful speech during the panel discussion. Speaking from personal experience, he shared the story of his mother's late-diagnosed liver disease to underscore the urgency of early screening and prevention. He affirmed: "We have the tools, the medications, the diagnostics... we need the collective will to make them accessible to everyone... behind every statistic is a human story... Together, we can make a profound, lifesaving change." His heartfelt intervention emphasised that obesity and liver disease are deeply personal and societal issues, calling for dignity, integrated care, and urgent policy action. The event also officially relaunched the MEP Digestive Health Group, chaired by MEP Romana Jerković, signalling renewed parliamentary focus on prevention, socioeconomic health costs, and integrated treatment models. With Milan Mishkovikj's participation, ELPA elevated the patient perspective within EU-level dialogue, championing: integrated prevention and care models beyond therapy alone, early liver-disease screening initiatives tied to obesity strategies, and access to diagnostics and treatments grounded in lived experience.

European Medicines Agency's 30th Anniversary Scientific Conference

On June 25, 2025, ELPA proudly joined the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) 30th Anniversary Scientific Conference, held at EMA's headquarters in Amsterdam.

This special event marked three decades of pioneering work in medicines regulation and public health. The conference drew a wide array of participants—regulatory authorities, industry experts, researchers, healthcare professionals, and patient and consumer organisations—from across Europe and beyond. ELPA President Marko Korenjak, a member of the EMA Management Board, and ELPA Board Directors Tove Frisch and Milan Mishkovikj attended the event. ELPA celebrated the milestone, emphasising the indispensable role of patient representation in regulatory science.



Emer Cooker, Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, European Medicines Agency's 30th Anniversary Scientific Conference

EU health technology assessment: Advent of a new era of collaboration

On July 2, 2025, the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) participated in the high-level conference "EU Health Technology Assessment: Advent of a New Era of Collaboration," hosted by the European Commission in Brussels.

This milestone event came six months into implementing the new EU HTA Regulation (EU 2021/2282) and gathered over 90 participants from national HTA bodies, the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries, academic institutions, and patient organisations. The conference focused on fostering a more unified and collaborative approach to health technology assessment across Europe. It provided a timely opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the early implementation of joint clinical assessments and to exchange insights on the practical implications of the regulation. Among the highlights was the strong



Antonella Cardone, CEO Cancer Patient Europe, Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office, EU health technology assessment: Advent of a new era of collaboration

emphasis on the role of patient engagement in shaping effective and inclusive HTA systems. ELPA welcomed the opportunity to engage in this multi-stakeholder dialogue, recognising the importance of patient perspectives in HTA processes, particularly in the context of liver-related innovations. The discussions reaffirmed the need for continuous cooperation and transparency to ensure that health technologies are evaluated fairly, efficiently, and with a clear focus on patient outcomes. The event served as a valuable platform for building stronger partnerships and aligning on future priorities, reinforcing ELPA's commitment to advocating for the liver patient community within the evolving European HTA landscape.

WHO Europe World Hepatitis Day webinar

On July 25, 2025, the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) took part in the WHO/Europe webinar commemorating World Hepatitis Day, held online under the theme of strengthening regional collaboration and progress in hepatitis elimination.

The virtual meeting, organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, brought together key public health, academia, and civil society stakeholders to discuss strategic updates, highlight national achievements, and showcase innovative approaches in the field of viral hepatitis. The opening session featured welcoming remarks from Dr Stela Bivol (WHO/Europe), Ganna Dovbakh (Eurasian Harm Reduction Association), Cary James (World Hepatitis Alliance), and ELPA President Marko Korenjak, who reinforced the role of patients in shaping hepatitis strategies and urged for more inclusive, community-driven actions across the region. The programme continued with presentations from leading experts. Dr Marcelo Naveira (WHO/Europe) outlined regional priorities for 2025–2026, followed by updates on surveillance and risk factors such as injection drug use. The second session highlighted impactful case studies, including Iceland's ten-year journey with the TraP HepC programme, the validation of hepatitis B control targets in Belarus, and the launch of the EU4Health-funded MOBHOPE project, aimed at improving outreach and prevention in Croatia, Portugal, and Spain. The event concluded with closing remarks from Dr Bivol, who praised the momentum

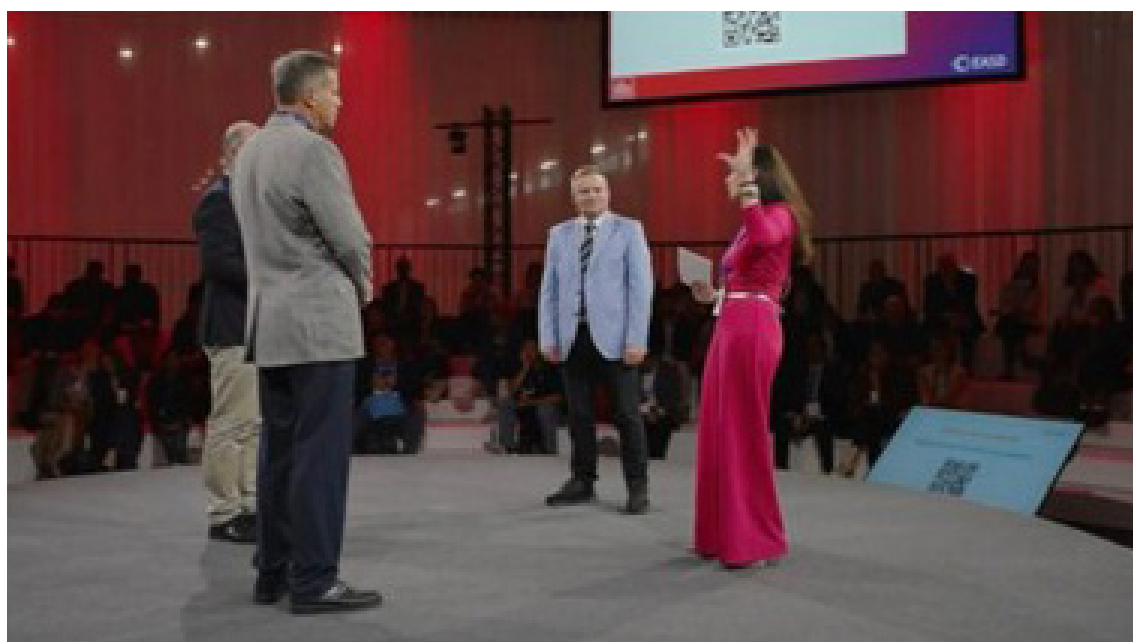
of regional efforts and called for sustained commitment to achieving the 2030 hepatitis elimination goals. ELPA welcomed the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue and reaffirmed its dedication to amplifying patient voices in the fight against hepatitis across Europe.

EASD Annual Meeting 2025

ELPA had the honor to participate in the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) annual meeting on September 16, 2025.

Too often, people with liver disease, cardiovascular and kidney disease, obesity, and diabetes feel lost between specialists, stigmatised, and unheard. But in Vienna, the message was bold and unforgettable:

- Screening and early detection must come first.
- Real-world data matters more than statistics alone.
- Stigma must end — compassion and evidence must lead.
- Integrated, multidisciplinary care is not a dream — it's a necessity.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, EASD Annual Meeting 2025

UEG Week 2025

At UEG Week 2025 in Berlin (October 4-7, 2025), ELPA was honoured to participate in the 3rd Digestive Health Roundtable.

The United European Gastroenterology organised the event as a platform for patient leaders and professional experts to engage in a lively and meaningful dialogue on digestive cancer care, patient-reported outcomes, and involvement in clinical trials. On this crucial platform, ELPA not only contributed to the roundtable discussions but also delivered a dedicated presentation highlighting its current activities and future ambitions for supporting patients with liver disease across Europe. Through these engagements, we

reaffirmed our commitment to elevating the voice of liver-patient organisations and strengthening collaboration with clinicians, researchers, and policy-makers.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, UEG Week 2025

ESMO 2025

ELPA was proud to actively participate in ESMO 2025 (October 17-21, 2025), one of the most influential oncology congresses worldwide.

This year, ELPA highlighted the importance of liver patient advocacy in cancer care, bringing the patient perspective to the forefront of discussions on hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma, and other liver-related malignancies. Through dedicated sessions, expert panels, and collaboration with leading clinicians and researchers, ELPA strengthened the dialogue between stakeholders and promoted better, more equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, and support services for liver cancer patients across Europe. ELPA's presence at ESMO 2025 reaffirmed its commitment to empowering patients and shaping a future where their voices remain central to oncology innovation and policy.



ESMO 2025, Group picture

European Cancer Summit 2025

ELPA was proud to participate in the European Cancer Summit 2025, organised by the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) and held on November 19-20, 2025.



European Cancer Summit 2025, Group picture

The Summit brought together a broad cross-section of the European cancer community, including healthcare professionals, patient advocates, policymakers, researchers, and civil society, to discuss key policy priorities for cancer prevention, early detection, care, and research. A central focus of the Summit was the work of ECO's HPV and Hep B Action Network, which promotes coordinated action to eliminate cancers caused by viral infections, including hepatitis B-associated liver cancer. ELPA's Vice President and Treasurer, Ivana Dragojević, participated actively in discussions related to the nexus between viral hepatitis and cancer, bringing the patient voice to policy dialogue on cancer prevention and hepatitis B. Dragojević's contribution underlined the importance of hepatitis B awareness, prevention, and integrated policy approaches to reduce the burden of virus-associated liver cancer across Europe. During the Summit, sessions connected to the Hep B Action Network highlighted progress toward cancer prevention goals under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan through the sharing of best practices and policy strategies for closing gaps in vaccination, screening, and early diagnosis — especially for vaccine-preventable cancers. ELPA's participation reinforced its commitment to collaborative, evidence-based advocacy across the cancer and liver health communities. By engaging with policymakers and stakeholders at the European level, ELPA continues to champion equitable access to prevention, care, and support services for individuals affected by liver disease and virus-related cancers.

European Pharmacovigilance Congress (EUPV) 2025

ELPA was represented at the European Pharmacovigilance Congress 2025, held in a hybrid format with virtual sessions on 19–20 November and an in-person day on 28 November 2025.

This premier event brought together drug safety experts, regulatory professionals, industry leaders, and patient representatives from across Europe and beyond to discuss the latest scientific, regulatory, and practical developments in pharmacovigilance — the discipline dedicated to monitoring the safety of medicines throughout their lifecycle. The Congress features a comprehensive programme covering cutting-edge topics such as advancing safety signal detection, regulatory frameworks, real-world evidence, benefit-risk evaluation, and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in pharmacovigilance. It also includes sessions on the contributions of patient representatives and the importance of PV in protecting public health and ensuring safe use of medicines — an area where patient insights are increasingly recognised as essential. ELPA President Marko Korenjak, who has extensive experience in European health policy and regulatory engagement, was part of the event's speaker and stakeholder community, linking liver patient perspectives with broader discussions on drug safety and surveillance. His involvement emphasised the importance of patient-centred pharmacovigilance, especially for individuals living with long-term conditions such as liver disease, where medication safety and post-marketing monitoring are critical to improving quality of life and therapeutic outcomes. By participating in the European Pharmacovigilance Congress, ELPA reinforced its commitment to contributing to multistakeholder dialogue on medicine safety, advocating for patient voices in regulatory science, and supporting systems that enhance the detection, analysis, and reporting of adverse effects relevant to liver patients and the wider community.



MEPs for Action on Obesity Launch Event

ELPA was pleased to be part of the launch event of the new MEPs for Action on Obesity, held on November 4, 2025, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

This high-level gathering marked the formal establishment of an informal European Parliament interest group dedicated to advancing EU-level policy action on obesity — a condition recognised as a chronic disease and a pivotal risk factor for a range of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The launch, supported by the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) and co-chaired by MEPs Romana Jerković and Michalis Hadjipantela, brought together Members of the European Parliament, policymakers, clinical experts and patient representatives. Participants emphasised the need for stronger, coordinated action on obesity prevention, early diagnosis, equitable access to care, and long-term treatment pathways. Of particular importance for liver health advocates, the MEPs for Action on Obesity initiative recognises obesity as a gateway to a broad spectrum of chronic conditions, including liver disease such as steatotic liver disease and liver cancer — as well as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and several cancers — underscoring the interconnections across non-communicable disease prevention and care.

ELPA's involvement at the event highlighted the critical link between obesity and liver disease, drawing attention to the need for integrated public health strategies that address obesity not in isolation but as a core driver of liver harm and related illnesses. Through policy engagement like this, ELPA continues to advocate for holistic, evidence-based approaches that reduce disease burden, improve early detection and support person-centred care across Europe. The launch of MEPs for Action on Obesity represents a significant step toward elevating obesity on the EU public health agenda and building momentum for comprehensive European policy responses that span prevention, treatment and management — with implications for liver health and wider NCD outcomes.



MEPs for Action on Obesity Launch Event, Group picture

EACH Cardiovascular Health Summit

ELPA marked a significant presence at the 2025 European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health (EACH) Cardiovascular Health Summit, held in Brussels on December 10–11, 2025.

The summit brought together policymakers, clinicians, patient advocates, researchers, and industry leaders to advance solutions for Europe's leading cause of mortality — cardiovascular disease. Hosted at the historic Palais des Académies, the two-day event focused on shaping the forthcoming EU Cardiovascular Health Plan and building momentum for its implementation across Member States. With the plan's publication on the horizon, attendees highlighted prevention, early detection, and equitable access to care as critical priorities. ELPA delegate engaged in high-level discussions on how cardiovascular and liver health intersect — particularly around shared risk factors such as metabolic syndrome and chronic inflammation. ELPA emphasised the importance of integrated approaches that consider comorbid conditions and the lived experiences of patients navigating complex care pathways. ELPA also stressed the importance of patient-centered policies and sustainable prevention strategies that address the underlying causes of chronic

disease. Key summit highlights included talks on harmonizing national action plans, innovative prevention strategies, and patient testimony sessions stressing the real-world impact of policy decisions. With cardiovascular disease still the leading cause of death in the EU, the summit reaffirmed a strong political will to ensure that the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan delivers tangible benefits. ELPA's active involvement at the EACH Summit reflects its growing role in European health policy advocacy — particularly at the intersections of chronic disease prevention, patient empowerment, and healthcare system sustainability.



Elisabeth Dupont, IDF Europe Regional Manager - Diana Castillo, ECPO President - Susie Birney ECPO Operations Director - Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office, EACH Cardiovascular Health Summit

EASL Meetings

EASL SLD Summit

The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) was proud to have participated in the EASL SLD Summit, which took place on 23-25 January, 2025.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Julio Burman, ELPA Vice President – EASL Governance, EASL SLD Summit 2025

This prestigious event, organised by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), brought together leading experts, researchers, and stakeholders to discuss the latest advancements in steatotic liver disease (SLD). As a dedicated advocate for liver patients, ELPA actively engaged in discussions, shared patient perspectives, and contributed to shaping policies to improve liver health outcomes across Europe. Its presence at the summit reinforced ELPA's commitment to fostering collaboration between medical professionals and patient communities, ensuring that patient voices remained at the heart of liver disease research and treatment strategies.

EASL Liver Cancer Summit 2025

From February 20 to 22, 2025, the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) hosted the Liver Cancer Summit in Paris, France.

The summit brought together leading experts, researchers, and patient advocates from around the world. Among the participants was a representative from the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA), who highlighted the crucial role of patient engagement in advancing liver cancer research and care. ELPA's presence emphasised the importance of integrating the patient perspective into discussions on



Ivana Dragojević, ELPA Vice President - Julio Burman, ELPA Vice President, Tove Frisch, ELPA Vice President, EASL Liver Cancer Summit 2025

early detection, treatment access, and quality of life for those affected by liver cancer. The summit featured sessions on multidisciplinary approaches, innovations in therapy, and the growing role of patient advocacy in shaping healthcare policies. By actively participating in such high-level scientific events, ELPA continues to ensure that the voices of liver patients are heard, advocating for improved care standards and greater awareness of cancer challenges across Europe.

EASL Congress 2025

ELPA had a strong and meaningful presence at the EASL Congress 2025, which took place from June 4 to 7, 2025. As one of the largest gatherings of liver health professionals and researchers in Europe, the EASL Congress provided ELPA with a unique platform to represent the voice of liver patients and to advocate for greater patient inclusion in clinical and policy discussions. Throughout the event, ELPA participated in key sessions focused on liver disease prevention, early diagnosis, access to treatment, and the importance of co-creating research with patients.

The association hosted a vibrant information booth that served as a hub for dialogue and collaboration with healthcare professionals, researchers, industry representatives, and fellow patient organisations. ELPA representatives contributed to several panel discussions and roundtables, emphasising the challenges faced by liver patients across Europe and sharing insights from their ongoing advocacy work.

At the Patient and Advocate Forum, Alexei Lakhov, ELPA representative from Russia, contributed to the topic: "Culturally Competent Care: providing for patients in marginalised communities." This year, the focus was on improving liver healthcare for patients with liver diseases from marginalised communities. Discussed issues included: social inequities, community health, identifying at-risk populations, and harm reduction strategies.



ELPA representative Richard Hall from the UK took part in a roundtable discussion on the impact of alcohol consumption on liver disease, highlighting the urgent need for better prevention strategies, education, and support systems. This is a crucial topic, as alcohol-related liver disease remains one of the leading causes of liver-related morbidity and mortality in Europe, demanding coordinated action from healthcare providers, policymakers, and patient advocates.

A Track Hub Public Health session allowed ELPA and all its members to showcase what the association has been doing for the last 20 years. The video can be watched [here](#).

The congress also allowed ELPA to strengthen its relationships with EASL and other stakeholders, paving the way for future collaborations to improve the quality of life for people living with liver conditions.

ELPA's participation at EASL 2025 not only elevated the patient perspective but also reinforced the association's commitment to driving policy change and research innovation in liver health.

ELPA in International Meetings

World Diabetes Congress 2025

At the World Diabetes Congress 2025, held from April 7 to 10, 2025, the European Liver Patient Association (ELPA) made a significant contribution through the active participation of its President, Marko Korenjak.

In a well-received presentation, Korenjak addressed the often-overlooked but critical interlink between liver disease and diabetes, highlighting how metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and other liver conditions are intricately connected to the development and progression of type 2 diabetes. Drawing from the latest scientific evidence and patient advocacy perspectives, he emphasised the need for integrated care models that recognise the overlapping pathophysiology and shared risk factors between these two major non-communicable diseases. Korenjak also underscored the importance of early screening and diagnosis, especially in high-risk populations, to prevent long-term complications and improve patient outcomes. His intervention resonated with healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers in attendance, reinforcing the necessity of collaborative strategies across hepatology and diabetology to address this growing public health challenge.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - other participants, World Diabetes Congress 2025

Together for Better Liver Health

ELPA Director Milan Mishkovikj participated in the high-level policy event “Together for Better Liver Health”.

The meeting was co-hosted by the Global Liver Institute (GLI), the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), and it was organised during the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 23, 2025. This event brought together leading experts, policymakers, public health officials, and advocates to push for stronger public health strategies to address liver disease as part of the global noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) response and highlight the need to embed liver health within national NCD strategies. During the event, GLI released the second edition of the Best Practices in Liver Health Policy report, featuring 5 new case studies from Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and Qatar to demonstrate the integration of liver health into clinical pathways and broader health frameworks. Speakers championed a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach to liver health, including early diagnosis and treatment, community-based care models, and policy frameworks aligned with Universal Health Coverage and the WHO Global NCDs Action Plan.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - other participants, Together for Better Liver Health

Paris MASH Meeting 2025

On September 11-12, 2025. At the 11th Paris MASH Meeting, global leaders in science, corporate leaders, and patient advocacy came together to shape the future of liver health.

The scientific program provided cutting-edge insights into how MASLD/MASH impacts cancer risk and mortality, the global policy implications for patients, the role of comorbidities, genetics, and transplantation,

as well as the urgent need to integrate screening, monitoring, and individualised strategies. ELPA was proud to stand at this table of innovation — presenting our European Liver Screening Week 2024 results and announcing the 2025 edition under the patronage of the European Parliament. Together with friends and partners like Arun Sanyal, Lawrence Serfaty, Homie Razavi, Michael Betel, Selly Sickout, and many more, we showed that science, policy, corporate partners, and patients must unite.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Selly Sickout, Fédération SOS Hépatites & Maladies du foie, Paris MASH Meeting 2025

MOSAIC – Global NASH/MASH Trialist Forum

ELPA was honoured to participate in MOSAIC – Global NASH/MASH Trialist Forum (October 23 and 24, 2025), a multi-stakeholder, multi-specialty think-tank that brought together hepatology, cardiology, endocrinology, nephrology, regulatory experts, industry and patient representatives.



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - other participants, MOSAIC – Global NASH/MASH Trialist Forum

At the event, ELPA highlighted the importance of the patient voice in the trial ecosystem for NASH/MASH — a condition that affects an estimated 25-30% of the adult population and poses major liver-related and extra-hepatic risks. By engaging with leading trialists, regulators, and stakeholders, ELPA contributed to cross-disciplinary dialogue, helped shape discussions on trial design, diagnostics, endpoints, and therapies, and reinforced its commitment to improving equitable access to care for liver patients worldwide.

AASLD the Liver Meeting 2025

ELPA participated in the AASLD 2025 Congress (November 7-10, 2025), one of the world's leading international meetings in hepatology, bringing together clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and patient organisations from across the globe.

At the congress, ELPA presented a scientific poster featuring key highlights and data from the European Screening Week 2024. The poster illustrated the scope and impact of liver disease screening and awareness activities carried out in Brussels, in front of the European Parliament, reflecting the collective efforts of ELPA's national patient associations and partners. The data presented demonstrated the importance of early detection and screening in identifying liver disease at an earlier stage, as well as the value of coordinated, Europe-wide initiatives in reaching at-risk populations. By sharing these results at AASLD, ELPA contributed the patient perspective to the scientific dialogue and helped ensure that prevention and screening remain central to liver health strategies. ELPA's presence at AASLD 2025 further strengthened

its role as a key stakeholder in the international liver community and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing liver health through data-driven advocacy, collaboration, and patient engagement.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Julio Burman, ELPA Vice President, AASLD the Liver Meeting 2025

First European Annual Primary Care MASLD/MASH Summit

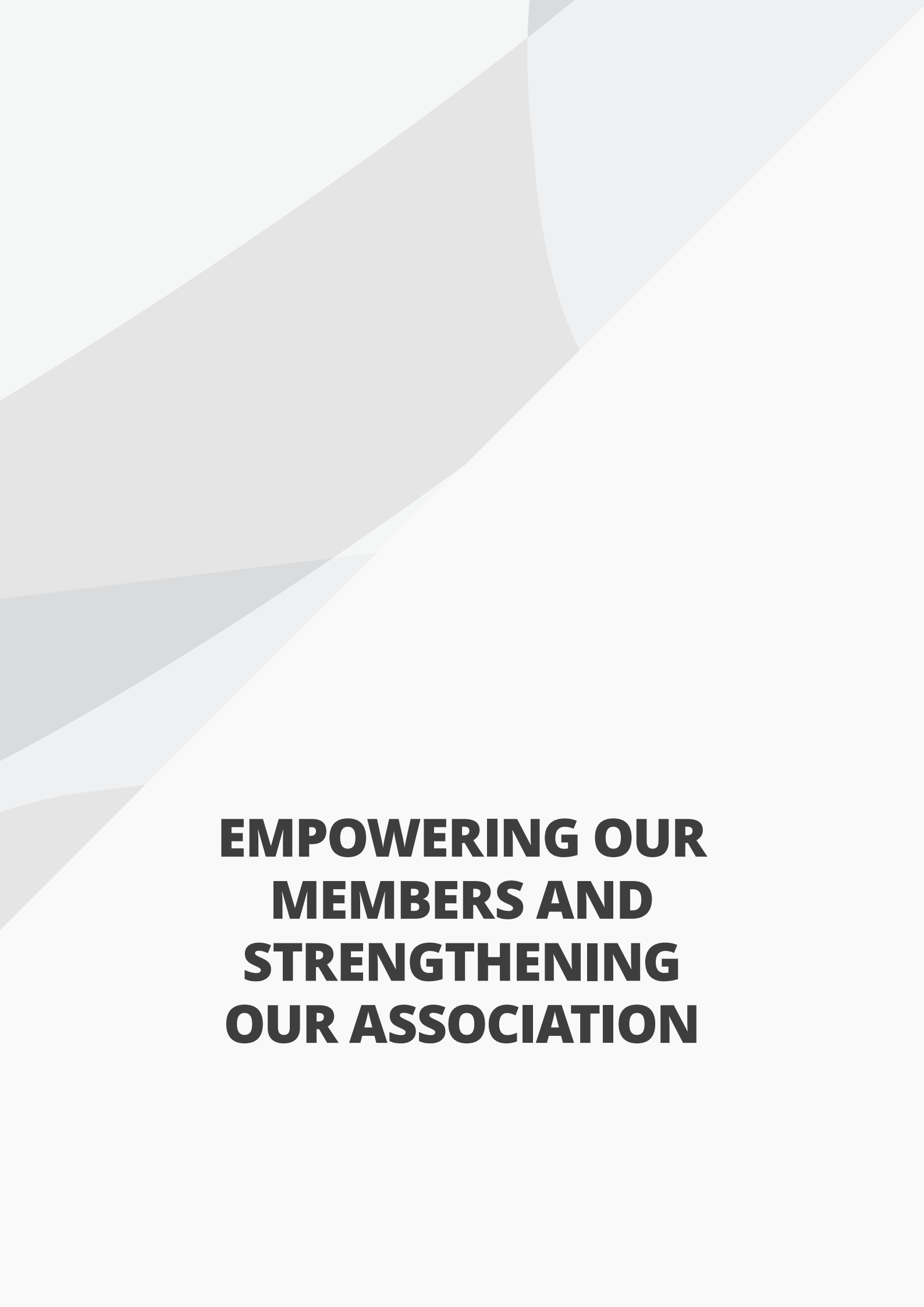
The First European Annual Primary Care MASLD/MASH Summit 2025 was held virtually on December 4, 2025.

The landmark event — the inaugural European edition of the Primary Care metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) summit - brought together primary care professionals, hepatologists, researchers, and public health leaders to advance understanding and management of liver disease in clinical practice. Organised as a virtual gathering to increase cross-border collaboration, the Summit offered a rich program of eight in-depth scientific sessions focused on early detection, real-world care strategies, interdisciplinary collaboration, and patient-centered approaches



to MASLD/MASH management. ELPA's President, Marko Korenjak, was featured as a key speaker during the summit, delivering opening remarks alongside other leaders from the hepatology and primary care communities. His contribution highlighted the critical importance of integrating patient perspectives and liver health advocacy into frontline care and clinical guidelines. Throughout the event, ELPA representatives engaged with clinicians and healthcare professionals on topics

such as practical diagnostic tools, the role of non-invasive testing in primary care, and strategies to support patient engagement and education. Sessions also emphasised lifestyle interventions and pharmacologic considerations tailored to patients living with MASLD and MASH - critical knowledge for clinicians working at the interface of chronic disease and metabolic health. A standout segment of the Summit was the "Patient Voice" session, which underscored the lived experiences of individuals affected by fatty liver disease, reinforcing ELPA's commitment to ensuring patient insights drive clinical practice and policy discussions. Organizers described the European edition as a unique platform for networking and knowledge exchange that will help shape the future of MASLD and MASH care across Europe and beyond. ELPA's participation marked a significant step in promoting liver patient priorities within the broader primary care and hepatology communities.



**EMPOWERING OUR
MEMBERS AND
STRENGTHENING
OUR ASSOCIATION**

ELPA Training and General Assembly

ELPA successfully held its Annual Training and General Assembly 2025 on May 8, 2025, in Amsterdam during the EASL Congress.

ELPA brought together member organisations and board members and invited experts to participate in capacity building, strategic reflection, and collective decision-making. The event provided a valuable



platform for strengthening the internal knowledge and governance of the association while aligning on future goals in liver patient advocacy. The training sessions covered a range of practical and strategic topics, including drug development in the liver field, the role of patient organisations in research and policymaking, and effective communication and campaigning. The General Assembly focused on key organisational matters such as adopting activity and financial reports and discussing upcoming projects. Members reaffirmed their commitment to collaboration, transparency, and growth, voting

on decisions that will guide ELPA's work in the coming year. A highlight of the weekend was the open dialogue between members, fostering a strong sense of unity and shared purpose. The event underscored ELPA's commitment to empowering its network, strengthening its strategic direction, and ensuring that the voice of liver patients continues to be heard in all relevant arenas—from clinical research to European policy.

EPF Annual General Meeting

On 24 May 2025, the European Patients' Forum (EPF) held its Annual General Meeting, bringing together patient leaders and stakeholders from across Europe to reflect, decide, and shape the organisation's future. The day began with a welcome from EPF President Marco Greco and Executive Director Anca Toma, setting the stage for a focused and collaborative agenda. Delegates approved the minutes of the 2024 AGM and Extraordinary General Meeting, before turning to key reports and governance matters. The EPF Secretariat presented the 2024 Annual Report, followed by a detailed financial overview from Treasurer Radu Costin Ganescu and the auditor. Delegates approved the financial report and discharged the board and auditor—marking a milestone in transparent and responsible stewardship. Membership expansion was another highlight. The session introduced new candidate organisations for membership, followed by a Q&A and successful vote, further enriching EPF's diverse patient representation. The AGM also hosted elections for the EPF Board 2025–2027. Candidates presented their visions for the organisation and engaged in a Q&A with members. Marco Greco was reappointed as President. In the afternoon, the Secretariat presented the



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Marco Greco, EPF President, EPF Annual General Meeting

Work Plan and Budget 2025. A key forward-looking session titled “The Roadmap towards EPF Strategic Plan 2027–2031” followed, emphasising how members’ insights will shape the long-term vision. The final session included a reflection on EPF’s current strategic plan, discussions on challenges and opportunities, and a focus on risk management and rebranding strategies. President Marco Greco closed the meeting, reaffirming the importance of unity and direction as EPF enters a new phase. The AGM was followed by the Leadership Meeting, themed “Shaping EPF’s Strategy in a New Political Era.” Through interactive sessions, EPF staff and stakeholders discussed strategic priorities, explored new pillars of action, and charted the next steps toward the 2027–2031 plan.

Mariedamm and Stockholm multicultural conference

On May 17-21, 2025, the ELPA Member from Sweden hosted a remarkable multicultural health conference that brought together professionals, patients, and advocates across Europe and the Middle East to explore the intersections of culture, healthcare systems, and patient experience.

Spearheaded by the organiser, ELPA Board member and leader of the Multicultural Working Group, Tove Frisch, the weeklong event blended deep professional insight with authentic Swedish culture, offering attendees a rich and diverse learning experience. Set in the tranquil landscapes of Mariedamm and the urban heart of Stockholm, the conference aimed to introduce participants to the Swedish way of life, which profoundly influences healthcare access, patient expectations, and treatment outcomes. From typical Swedish cuisine to discussions on rural versus urban healthcare disparities, the event emphasised the cultural backdrop behind Sweden’s patient care model. Highlights included impactful lectures by Anna and Leyla Ruuska, who shed light on healthcare delivery challenges in rural Sweden, and Kari Bunæs of Norway, who shared compelling stories about access to care in remote, storm-prone regions. The sessions illuminated how geography, politics, and infrastructure shape healthcare realities in different countries. One of the most compelling presentations came from Erik Bäcklund, whose breakthrough in dental repair led to a larger movement toward preventive care and multidisciplinary cooperation in Sweden. His innovative clinic in Askersund exemplifies patient-centred care, where collaboration and empathy are core principles. With delegates from eight countries, discussions were rich with diverse viewpoints. Sessions explored everything from medicine and politics to family networks and religious attitudes toward illness. Meals became cultural events—ranging from a rustic Nordic dinner in the countryside to a vibrant Israeli-Turkish feast at home—deepening connections and understanding among attendees. Meetings with organisations such as Fokus Patient and PBC Sverige reinforced the importance of collaboration across borders and diseases. These engagements opened new doors for future partnerships focused on co-morbidity research, patient advocacy, and systemic reform.



Hilal Unalmış Duda, Living with Hepatitis Association, HEPYAŞAM - Ivana Dragojević, ELPA Vice President - Sindee Wenbaum, Israeli Association for the Health of the Liver, Hetz - Teresa Casanovas ELPA Scientific Assessor, Mariedamm and Stockholm multicultural conference

Patient Engagement Open Forum

From June 10 to 12, 2025, the Patient Engagement Open Forum (PEOF) brought together over 200 global healthcare champions in a dynamic, co-creative environment focused on deepening patient engagement across health systems.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, Patient Engagement Open Forum

Jointly organised by PFMD, EUPATI, and EPF, this flagship event saw ELPA proudly represented in multiple high-impact sessions. ELPA's leadership took active roles in key workshops and plenaries and engaged with patient community leaders at informal meetups to build alliances and inspire future co-designed initiatives. Representing liver patients within a multi-stakeholder context elevated ELPA's advocacy, reinforcing its commitment to evidence-based, patient-centric care strategies. In addition, through dialogues at PEOF, ELPA solidified partnerships that will amplify liver health priorities at European and global policy levels.

Transhépate federation 40th anniversary

On June 13 and 14, 2025, the Transhépate federation organised a special congress celebrating its 40th anniversary. The event was held under the honorary presidency of Professor Jean-Pierre Bismuth, founder of the federation. These two days were rich in emotion and scientific excellence. Participants had the opportunity to attend brilliant presentations by leading experts in liver transplantation, including Professors Coilly, Cherqui, Dokmak, and Boudjema. Valuable contributions also came from Professor Tsimaratos, representing the French Biomedicine Agency (ABM), and Professor Chardot from Necker Hospital. Dr. Vincent Karam presented the European Liver Transplant Registry platform coordinated by ESOT (European Society for Organ Transplantation), highlighting its importance for research and patient care. Marko Korenjak, President of ELPA, emphasised the active involvement of Transhépate as an ELPA member from France and celebrated the federation's longstanding commitment to liver patients. He expressed ELPA's pride in having Transhépate within its network, recognising its



Éric Buleux-Osmann Transhépate federation - Marko Korenjak, ELPA President, Transhépate federation 40th anniversary

40 years of advocacy, support, and progress. Cédric Emile also presented updates on the VADO (Villes Ambassadrices du Don d'Organes) initiative, which now extends to pharmacies, hospitals, regions, and private companies, expanding awareness and support for organ donation throughout France. After the scientific sessions, participants were invited to enjoy a delightful cocktail reception. The event concluded with a spirited and heartfelt performance by Marie-Claire Neveu, known as the “Hépatik Girl,” who brought energy and joy to the evening. Transhepate’s longstanding dedication to liver patients, its recent integration into ELPA, and the continued support from European and French professionals reflect a shared mission: improving the lives of liver patients across Europe.

FECAMM networking dinner

On June 19, 2025, European Liver Patient Association (ELPA) representatives participated in a significant networking dinner hosted by FECAMM (Federació Catalana de Malalties Minoritàries, the Catalan Federation of Rare Diseases). The evening’s focus was on fostering patient involvement in the realm of rare disease care and advocacy. FECAMM acts as an umbrella federation for non-profit patient associations across Catalonia, united by a shared dedication to raising awareness, supporting families, promoting accurate diagnoses, and advancing education and treatments for rare conditions. FECAMM coordinates over 30 disease-specific groups. The June dinner in Barcelona provided a venue for ELPA and FECAMM to exchange best practices on integrating patients into decision-making processes, treatment pathways, and advocacy strategies. The event also highlighted current Catalan initiatives—including new registries, awareness campaigns, and upcoming educational programs—to empower patients and families. ELPA representatives discussed their approaches to liver-specific rare diseases, including tools for patient education, the structuring of working groups, and the promotion of shared patient-clinician practices. FECAMM, in turn, shared insights from its Catalan-level coordination, and the dinner culminated in a collective commitment to enhance patient involvement at local, national, and European levels. Both organisations look ahead



FECAMM networking dinner, Group picture

to joint initiatives aimed at co-developing educational outreach for newly diagnosed families, launching participatory research projects with active patient steering, and strengthening cross-border cooperation within broader European rare disease frameworks.

Cancer Patients Europe Annual Meeting

Cancer Patients Europe (CPE) held its Annual Meeting in Brussels on June 25, 26 and 27, 2025, bringing together patient advocates, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and researchers from across Europe.



Cancer Patients Europe Annual Meeting, Group picture

The two-day event focused on embedding equity into cancer care strategies and amplifying patient voices in both policy and practice. On June 25, a Policy Forum was held at the European Parliament, where discussions centred on how to integrate the principle of equity into EU-wide cancer control frameworks. The forum provided a space for dialogue between members of the European Parliament, civil society, and patient representatives. A networking reception followed, allowing participants to exchange ideas and strengthen collaborations. On June 26, the main conference took place under the theme "Equity in Action." Sessions addressed disparities in access to cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship support. Participants examined the socio-economic, regional, and cultural barriers faced by patients and worked toward concrete strategies to address them. Workshops and panels also highlighted the importance of including patient experiences in shaping national cancer plans. Throughout the event, Cancer Patients Europe emphasised the urgent need to recognise and act on the diverse realities of patients across Europe. The meeting concluded with a call for continued commitment to equity and the launch of initiatives aimed at addressing structural inequalities, including a survey on cancer-related malnutrition across the continent. Being a full member of CPE, ELPA also attended the closed-door Annual General Assembly on June 27.

ELPA@Home LAL-D

On June 20 and 21, 2025, the Second ELPA@Home Türkiye LAL-D Workshop convened a diverse group of clinicians, patient advocates, policy makers, and health professionals in Malatya to spotlight one of the rare but critical health challenges: Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (LAL-D).

Over two days, experts from across Türkiye and Europe shared the latest advancements in diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care strategies for LAL-D, a condition that often remains undetected until severe complications arise.



Hilal Ünalmiş Duda, Living with Hepatitis Association, HEPYAŞAM, Eduardo López, LAL-D Patient Organization - other participants, ELPA@Home LAL-D

Day 1: Clinical Insights and National Status

The workshop opened with remarks from Dr. Hilal Ünalmiş Duda, ELPA Turkey's representative. The workshop was held in collaboration with İnönü University in Malatya. University Rector Prof. Dr. Nusret Akpolat, in his opening remarks, expressed his satisfaction that the LAL-D issue was being addressed so comprehensively in Malatya, a major liver center in Türkiye. followed by a keynote from Eduardo Lopez of ELPA Spain, who provided a moving account of LAL-D from a patient association's perspective. Chaired by Prof. Dr. Sezai Yılmaz, the morning sessions featured in-depth presentations on neonatal and adolescent LAL-D cases, long-term enzyme replacement therapy, and clinical challenges faced in Türkiye, led by Prof. Dr. Gülden Gökçay, Prof. Dr. Mahmut Çoker, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Derya Bulut. A pivotal roundtable in the afternoon explored barriers to diagnosis and treatment access in Türkiye, with contributions from the Federation of Rare Diseases Lawyer Güneş Uyar, Secretary General of the Federation, communication and Cinema expert Prof. Dr. Şükran Kuyucak Esen and Patient Rights expert Prof. Dr. Gürkan Sert. Discussed social family ties, legal status, and artistic approaches. Perspectives on rare diseases were also presented. The discussion identified systemic obstacles and emphasised the urgent need for early detection and equitable care.

Day 2: Strategy and Action

The second day focused on developing actionable solutions. Led by ELPA Vice President Julio Burman, participants worked in groups to brainstorm and evaluate proposals for overcoming the diagnostic gap. Practical implementation planning, stakeholder roles, and coalition-building efforts culminated in a draft action manifesto—a roadmap to accelerate early diagnosis and improve patient outcomes. The workshop concluded with a renewed sense of collaboration and determination to drive meaningful change for LAL-D patients in Türkiye and beyond.

GHH Master Class in Strategic Advocacy and Communications

Global Heart Hub, in collaboration with the International Centre for Governance and Policy, invited ELPA representatives to participate in a tailored Master Class in Strategic Advocacy and Communications on September 4-6, 2025.

Over three days, patient community leaders and advocates from across the globe strengthened their advocacy and communication skills through interactive workshops, group exercises, and real-world case studies. This year's programme focused on equipping advocates to:

- Build effective advocacy strategies.
- Craft compelling messages and campaigns.
- Translate public awareness into meaningful policy change.
- Drive progress across the cardio-renal-metabolic (CRM) landscape.



Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office - other participants, GHH Master Class in Strategic Advocacy and Communications

Alpha-1: The Lung and Liver Connection



Julio Burman, ELPA Vice President, Alpha-1: The Lung and Liver Connection

On September 24, 2025, ELPA participated in the Lung & Liver Connection, a global initiative led by GAAPP—the Global Allergy and Airways Patient Platform—to bring together patients, advocates, and experts who care about Alpha-1.

The goal is to connect lung and liver care and create a more substantial support for people living with Alpha-1 all around the world. During the workshop, ELPA Vice President Julio Burman spoke on the importance of networking as a key driver for co-creation and future breakthroughs. With 90% of Alpha-1 patients still underdiagnosed and 10% of

liver transplants connected to Alpha-1, the urgency to act is clear. The discussion also shed light on the link with MASH and the challenges we must face together — across both lungs and liver. Julio expressed profound gratitude to GAAPP and all stakeholders for shaping this inspiring meeting, proving once again that collaboration is the way forward.

4th CEE Patient Engagement Forum



4th CEE Patient Engagement Forum, Group picture

This year, the 4th Central & Eastern Europe Patient Engagement Forum took place in Bucharest, Romania, on September 25-26, 2025. The CEE Patient Engagement Annual Forum convenes industry and patient leaders from 12 countries to exchange best practices and address collective challenges and opportunities in patient engagement. This year's Forum agenda was built around three major themes:

- Making the case for health in times of uncertainty.
- Access and patient involvement in Health Technology Assessment (HTA).
- Emerging system challenges and the future of patient engagement.

During the session on strengthening the voice of patients in HTA across CEE countries, ELPA President Marko Korenjak addressed possible solutions to ensure collaboration in the region becomes more structured and impactful. With the EU HTA Regulation now in force, the moment has come to align national processes with European-level recommendations — while still respecting local realities.

Some of the reflections he shared included:

- Leveraging Joint Clinical Assessments (JCA), freely available to all, to avoid duplication and optimize scarce resources.

- Building stronger regional collaboration so that no patient voice remains isolated within national silos.
- Establishing sustainable models for NGOs to participate meaningfully in HTA, supported by predictable funding streams.
- Sharing learnings, resources, and advocacy tools across borders to reinforce each other's impact.

It was inspiring to see how the Forum connected broader policy priorities — from the Critical Medicines Act and the European Health Data Space to local best practices highlighted in TEDx-style case studies. This diversity of perspectives demonstrates both the richness of experience in the region and the urgency of creating a long-term, sustainable vision for patient engagement. The discussions in Bucharest reaffirmed a simple truth: by working together, CEE countries can amplify patient voices, strengthen health systems, and secure better access to innovation for all patients.

EUPATI Patient Expert Training Programme

In October 2025 in Madrid, EUPATI held the final in-person stage of its Patient Expert Training Programme for Cohort 8, bringing together more than 100 participants from over 40 countries to conclude the year-long blended curriculum.

Throughout the intensive workshops and collaborative sessions on clinical development, regulatory processes, health-technology assessment, and patient engagement, participants strengthened their ability to contribute meaningfully to medicines research and innovation. The event culminated in the official graduation of the new EUPATI Fellows — including two representatives from ELPA, who successfully completed the programme and joined the growing network of trained patient experts across Europe. ELPA's participation underscored its commitment to fostering knowledgeable, empowered patient advocates capable of influencing research, policy, and better health outcomes for liver patients.



Beatrice Credi, ELPA Head of Office – Vladimir Aljetic, The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association, "B18", EUPATI Patient Expert Training Programme

EPF Congress 2025

ELPA was proud to participate in the European Patient Forum (EPF) Congress 2025, held on November 26-27, 2025.

The event brought together patient advocates, healthcare stakeholders, policymakers, and civil society representatives from across Europe to advance patient-centred healthcare and strengthen collaboration among European patient organisations. A highlight of ELPA's engagement was the active involvement of the ELPA President, Marko Korenjak, who took part as a panel speaker on a key session focused on the Covid-19 pandemic. ELPA's contribution to the EPF Congress reinforced its commitment to amplifying the patient voice at the highest levels of European health advocacy. Through dialogue with peers and policymakers, ELPA continues to drive progress on common priorities such as early diagnosis, equitable access to treatment, and patient-centred health systems. ELPA looks forward to continuing these collaborations and

building on the momentum from the EPF Congress as it works to improve liver health outcomes for people across Europe.



EPF Congress 2025, Group picture

FH Europe Foundation Annual Network Meeting 2025

ELPA was honoured to take part in the FH Europe Foundation Annual Network Meeting 2025, held November 14-16, 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia, in collaboration with the Croatian Dyslipidaemia Patients Association and under the patronage of MEP Romana Jerković.

The hybrid event brought together more than 100 participants from across Europe and beyond to advance collaboration, advocacy and innovation in cardiovascular and inherited lipid conditions. A key moment for ELPA was the participation of ELPA President Marko Korenjak, who joined a panel discussion on advancing meaningful patient involvement in medicine development. This session — part of the meeting's comprehensive agenda — focused on how patient communities and organisations can work together with industry, regulators, and other stakeholders to strengthen engagement in clinical research, regulatory science, and therapeutic innovation. Marko Korenjak's contribution underlined the importance of integrating liver patient perspectives into broader conversations about patient engagement and medicine development, especially for conditions with overlapping risk profiles, such as cardiovascular disease and liver disease. His role in the panel highlighted the value of cross-disease collaboration in strengthening advocacy and ensuring that real-world patient experiences help shape the evolution of care and policy. The



Marko Korenjak, ELPA President - other participants, FH Europe Foundation Annual Network Meeting 2025

Annual Network Meeting's programme also included discussions on patient advocacy strategies, the use of health data, artificial intelligence in patient support, and workshops to empower community leaders and ambassadors — all centred on the theme "Together, engaged for change!" ELPA's engagement at this meeting reflects its ongoing commitment to multistakeholder partnership, fostering meaningful patient involvement, and advancing shared goals across health communities in Europe.

ELPA EGM and Educational Training

ELPA successfully held its Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) alongside a dedicated Educational Training programme on December 4 and 5, 2025.



Partizan Malkaj, Pacientet me hepatite - Vladimir Aljetic, The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association, "B18" - Sindee Wenbaum, Israeli Association for the Health of the Liver, Hetz - Tarja Teitto-Tuckett, The Finnish Kidney and Liver Association, ELPA EGM and Educational Training

The two-day programme provided a valuable platform for ELPA members to engage in strategic discussions, exchange experiences, and strengthen their knowledge and skills in liver health advocacy. The EGM offered members the opportunity to address key organisational matters, reinforce governance processes, and align on ELPA's strategic direction, ensuring the association remains responsive, transparent, and member-driven. Complementing the EGM, the Educational Training sessions focused on building capacity within the liver patient community. Participants took part in interactive sessions covering key topics, including liver disease awareness, patient engagement, and the evolving landscape of liver health — encompassing viral hepatitis, metabolic liver disease, and prevention strategies. The training placed a strong emphasis on empowering patient representatives, equipping them with practical tools to support their communities more effectively and contribute meaningfully to healthcare discussions with clinicians, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Sharing best practices and lived experiences across countries helped foster collaboration and mutual learning among ELPA's diverse membership. By combining governance discussions with education and skills development, the December meeting reaffirmed ELPA's commitment to strong patient representation, informed advocacy, and continuous learning. The EGM and Educational Training underscored the importance of a united European liver patient voice and laid the groundwork for continued collaboration and impact in the year ahead.



ELPA IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS



LiverScreen has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 847989



LIVERHOPE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 731875



IP-cure-B has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 847939



MICROB-PREDICT has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 825694



GALAXY has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 668031



DECISION has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 847949



A-TANGO has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 945096



ESCALON has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 825510



Artemis Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136299



Liveration Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101104360



THRIVE Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136622



GENIAL Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101096312



LEOPARD Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101080964



GRIPonMASH Project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) under grant agreement No 101132946. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and COCIR, Efpia, EuropaBio, MedTech Europe, Vaccines Europe and Mercodia Aktiebolag, Metadeq Limited and Julius Clinical Research BV.



LIVERAIM Project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) under grant agreement No 101132901. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and EFPIA, COCIR, MedTech Europe, Vaccines Europe and EuropaBio.



HL4EU Project has received funding from the European Union's Erasmus+ programme for education, training, youth and sport under grant agreement No 101133773



FisPlat has received funding from the EIT Health under grant agreement No. 20308



Medical research project Galaxy, Horizon 2020

Medical research project GALAXY brings together partners with unique research competences in clinical hepatology, microbiome, multi-omics, biomarkers and bioinformatics. The aim of the project partners is to develop novel systems medicine tools which integrate clinical, multi-omics and lifestyle information from alcohol over-users at various stages of the disease and healthy individuals in order to: 1) identify signatures of host-microbial cross-talk during disease development and progression, 2) translate this into biomarkers for diagnosis, stratification and treatment monitoring in alcohol over users, and 3) evaluate new interventions to modulate gut microbiota towards prevention and mitigation of the disease in at-risk individuals. Project partners will also study societal and economic impact of medical research project GALAXY biomarkers and treatments to accelerate future development.



Medical research project Liverhope, Horizon 2020

The objective of Liverhope is to evaluate a novel therapeutic strategy for patients with decompensated cirrhosis based on targeting the main pathophysiological mechanisms of disease progression in cirrhosis, namely the impairment in the gut-liver axis and the persistent hepatic and systemic inflammatory response.

This dual therapeutic approach is supported by preclinical data showing that rifaximin modulates the disturbed microbiota and decreases gut permeability and systemic endotoxin levels characteristics of cirrhosis. Moreover, simvastatin decreases systemic and hepatic inflammation, improves the altered hepatic microcirculation, decreases portal hypertension, and reduces fibrosis progression.



Medical research project Microb-Predict, Horizon 2020

Within medical research project Microb-Predict, project partners are investigating the human microbiome to identify predictors and mechanisms associated with the development of decompensation of cirrhosis and progression to acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) and death. The project gathers 22 partner organizations working in different fields.



Medical research project Liverscreen, Horizon 2020

The aim of medical research project LiverScreen is to develop a targeted screening methodology to identify persons with asymptomatic liver fibrosis and cirrhosis among the general population. This methodology involves:

- 1) identification of groups from the general population at high risk of having chronic liver disease,
- 2) screening their liver stiffness with the innovative transient elastography (TE) technology (until now only validated in patients with known liver disease) for diagnosis, and
- 3) determining the right follow-up screening regime. Within the LiverScreen project 8 European countries are collaborating and performing research in over 34,000 subjects to develop the screening methodology and demonstrate its accuracy, clinical value, costeffectiveness, acceptability, and potential to be implemented by healthcare systems throughout Europe.



Medical research project IP Cure B, Horizon 2020

The objective of the EU-funded medical research project IP-cure-B « Immune profiling to guide host-directed interventions to cure HBV infections» is to develop novel curative concepts for chronic hepatitis B (CHB). The project aim is to improve the cure rate of CHB by boosting innate immunity with immune modulators and stimulating adaptive immune responses with a novel therapeutic vaccine. Researchers are also identifying immune and viral biomarkers for patient stratification and treatment response monitoring. Integration of biological and clinical data enable models for the best combination treatment and effectiveness of novel curative therapies with respect to disease spectrum and patient heterogeneity. The preclinical platform will be evaluated in humanised mice, combining immune-modulatory strategies to stimulate innate immunity, rescue exhausted HBV-specific T cells and generate anti-HBV adaptive responses. Proof of concept is to obtain in a clinical trial of a combination of novel compounds stimulating innate immunity.



Medical research project FiSplat, European Institute for Innovation and Tehnology – EIT Health

FibroScan Screening Platform (FiSplat) assess the presence of significant liver fibrosis with an accuracy at least equivalent to the one of the current FibroScan devices (with a sensitivity of 93% and a specificity of 78% using a cutoff of 9.2 kPa). An ergonomic, training procedure, results output and interpretation assistance and an innovative business model, makes the technology usable in a cost-effective manner for mass screening by nurses and general practitioners. This allow earlier decision-making and a personalized follow up. All together prevent the progression of the disease to liver cirrhosis, its associated worldwide morbidity and mortality, as well as reduce liver cirrhosis management costs.



Medical research project Decision, Horizon 2020

The objective of medical research project DECISION is to enhance our understanding, at systems level, of the pathophysiology of decompensation of cirrhosis leading to ACLF or death. For that purpose, project partners perform a multi-omic profiling of already existing large and clinically well characterized cohorts including 2,200 patients with available standardized biobank samples. The gained knowledge during the process allows the development of prognostic and response tests and of combinatorial therapies tailored to the needs of individual patients or identified groups of patients with acute decompensation of cirrhosis. All these efforts aim to decrease the risk of short-term death of patients with acute decompensation of cirrhosis.



Medical research project A-TANGO, Horizon 2020

In Europe, about 30,000 people die every year from alcohol related cirrhosis, a form of chronic, non-communicable disease. The patients that are at highest risk of death are those with superimposed alcoholic hepatitis (AH) who do not respond to therapy and develop acute on chronic liver failure (ACLF), a newly described syndrome characterised by multiorgan failure. Treatment of ACLF is an unmet need. Based upon their clinical and pre-clinical studies, the A-TANGO consortium aims to perform Phase 2 clinical trials of a novel, patented and innovative therapeutic strategy by repurposing a toll-like 4 receptor

antagonist (TAK242, Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 8), which targets inflammation, and combining it with granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF, TRL9) that improves hepatocyte proliferation (G-TAK, TRL4). A successful trial will advance G-TAK to TRL8. Additionally, A-TANGO aims to discover novel biomarkers for patient selection and defining prognosis, building health economics models and reimbursement strategies to allow maximal dissemination and exploitation.

ESCALON

ESCALON

ESCALON is a project involving a unique team of specialists in different areas (both academic and geographical areas) that aims to create databases and biobanks (both cross-sectional and prospectively) to evaluate biomarkers in blood that could predict hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma and gallbladder cancer. The project considers various clinical, environmental and genetic factors for each cancer that could shed light on the mechanisms leading to carcinogenesis and help us understand potential prevention points. The study will lead to the discovery and utilization of biomarkers that could be applied worldwide for early diagnosis and detection of hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma and gallbladder cancer, improve the understanding and provide identification of risk factors associated with hepatobiliary carcinogenesis that could be targeted for prevention and treatment of such cancers. The consortium is formed by physicians, scientists, epidemiologists, statisticians and media specialists in multiple countries across Europe and South America. Each task, designed to work on a different hepatobiliary cancer, is led by a centre in one continent in close collaboration with a centre in a different continent (Europe and South America).



COBALT

The Covid-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected liver patients - patients with chronic liver disease have around 5-times increased mortality from Covid-19 compared to individuals without liver disease. Therefore, the development of vaccines is a welcomed step, but we don't yet know if they are fully protected in liver patients. Early data from the US demonstrates that two-thirds of liver transplant patients don't have detectable antibodies to the coronavirus after one dose of the mRNA vaccine (Boyarsky et al., 2021). Therefore, there is an urgent need to determine how effective these vaccines are in liver patients to determine if extra protection is needed - such as extra vaccine doses, additional medications, or continued shielding. The COBALT study is taking place across Europe to urgently address this question by measuring responses to vaccination in liver patients. It is designed to report back quickly to inform patients and policy-makers, although further support is needed to accelerate this process and make policy decisions rapidly.



FACILITATE

FACILITATE is a 4-year project launched by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) whose primary aim is to enable clinical trial participants to access and make use of their personal health data gathered during studies to allow a better shared medical decision-making with the health professionals involved in their care and to create a process that allows data to be also re-used in future research. Its overall goal is to develop an innovative data-sharing and re-use process within a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant and approved ethical framework, not only to allow the access and portability of patient data but also to change the role of patients in the strategy and design of clinical trials – with many new rights and responsibilities – becoming an active component of the drug development process.



Medical research project GENIAL, Horizon Europe

Alcohol-related hepatocellular carcinoma (ALD-HCC) is, in Europe, the leading cause of liver cancer (2nd most common cause of cancer-related death worldwide, affecting both men and women). GENIAL brings together partners with unique expertise in clinical hepatology, single-cell and spatial multi-omics, artificial intelligence (AI) and communication and dissemination capacities. The aim is to 1) portray genetic and environmental determinants promoting ALD-HCC; 2) evaluate how they interact at cellular level in human samples and preclinical models to get novel insights into liver carcinogenesis, and identify chemopreventive targets; and 3) assess how these determinants modulate the ALD-HCC risk in prospective cohorts of patients included in HCC surveillance programs. Environmental factors will be comprehensively characterised in an ongoing clinical trial designed to evaluate alternative methods for early-stage HCC detection. Finally, AI models, reaching the minimal viable product stage by the end of GENIAL, will be used to integrate genetic and non-genetic information (including digital imaging) to develop novel cost-effective strategies towards prevention and early-stage detection of ALD-HCC in at-risk individuals.



Medical research project Liveration, Horizon Europe

Colorectal cancer (CRC) ranks fourth in cancer deaths worldwide. Between 20% and 30% of patients with advanced CRC have liver metastases (CRLM). Liver cancer ranks second in cancer deaths worldwide, including hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Despite recent advances, liver resection offers the only chance of cure for patients with liver metastases. However, the recurrence rate of these tumours is high even after post-resection. The presence of positive margins in the remaining liver after resection correlates with increased local recurrence and decreased overall survival, the only factor where prognosis could be influenced by the performance of surgery. However, at present, the extent of an R-negative status remains debatable and varies widely from one publication to another. Currently, there are radiofrequency ablation studies that, based on preliminary retrospective human clinical trials, are able to correlate an additional coagulation of tumor margins with a reduction on local recurrence. However, there is no prospective and pragmatic controlled study that accurately measures this additional margin and its impact on oncological outcomes. The aim of LIVERATION is to conduct an ambitious, pragmatic multicenter clinical trial with 720 patients with CRLM and HCC at 24 clinical centres in 6 different countries to determine whether additional ablated margin produced by radiofrequency can decrease the recurrence rate and improve patient survival.



Medical research project GRIPonMASH, European Institute for Innovation and Technology – EIT Health

GRIP on MASH will address the unmet public health need to reduce disease burden and comorbidities associated with Metabolic dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD). Together with seven medical technology, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, ELPA will devise a sustainable and scalable GRIPonMASH Platform that will enable access to at-risk patients developing or having MASLD through the early detection of this condition at the primary care level.



HL4EU, Erasmus +

The Healthy Lifestyles for Europe project (HL4EU) will foster a cross-sectoral approach to healthy lifestyles promotion among a variety of stakeholders, in line with the European Commission and WHO's vision and existing policy initiatives, and in sight of tackling the increasing burden of NCDs and of reducing health inequalities across Europe. The consortium consists of leading national and European representative organisations from different sectors, including, fitness, physical activity, outdoors, health (doctors, patients, and carers) and mobility.



Medical research project LEOPARD, Horizon Europe

The LEOPARD project stands as a pioneering effort in the field of liver transplantation (LT), uniting stakeholders across Europe to revolutionise organ allocation strategies for individuals with decompensated cirrhosis (DC) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Among patients currently listed for liver transplantation in Europe, mortality/drop-out on the waitlist averages 15-20% with large disparities across European countries. In recognition of the critical need to prioritise LT candidates based on mortality risk, particularly in the context of organ shortages, and the limitations of existing predictive models such as the Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) in accurately assessing this risk, there is a growing urgency for updated algorithms to refine organ offering schemes.



Medical research project ARTEMIS, Horizon Europe

The ARTEMIS project aims to consolidate existing computational mechanistic and machine-learning models at different scales to deliver 'virtual twins' embedded in a clinical decision support system (CDSS). The CDSS will provide clinically meaningful information to clinicians, for a more personalised management of the whole spectrum of Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD). MAFLD, with an estimated prevalence of about 25%, goes from an undetected sleeping disease, to inflammation (hepatitis), to fibrosis development (cirrhosis) and/or hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), decompensated cirrhosis and HCC being the final stages of the disease. However, many MAFLD patients do not die from the liver disease itself, but from cardiovascular comorbidities or complications.



Medical research project LIVERAIM, European Institute for Innovation and Technology – EIT Health

The LIVERAIM project concentrates a team of renowned clinical centres and Industrial partners, including SMEs, with great expertise in the field of Liver Disease, the aim being to design and validate a screening platform with biomarkers for population screening to use across Europe. The objective is to identify liver disease early and apply personalised therapeutic interventions. A large number of existing biomarkers will be tested for fibrosis prediction accuracy using biobank plasma samples from 40,000 subjects from previous H2020 EU-funded cohorts.

As part of many medical research projects, ELPA representatives participated in meetings and initiatives to implement and monitor them.

LIVERAIM survey



IP-cure-B Strategic Meeting

On January 31, 2025, at the IP-cure-B Strategic Meeting, ELPA Director Milan Mishkovikj showcased ELPA's exceptional contributions and the bold vision ahead.

Together with our world-class partners, we are reshaping the future of HBV treatment, driving innovation, advancing new therapies, and moving closer to a cure.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director, IP-cure-B Strategic Meeting

1st Understanding Tumor-Host Interactions Cluster Meeting

On January 31, 2025, the fight against cancer took a major step forward with the official kickoff of the First European Cluster on Understanding Tumour-Host Interactions. Backed by the EU Cancer Mission, this initiative unites top researchers, clinicians, and experts to advance cutting-edge research on tumor-host interactions. As part of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, it aims to improve cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, aligning with the Cancer Mission's goal of benefiting over 3 million people by 2030.

The cluster integrates six groundbreaking research projects under the “Understanding Cancer” objective, focusing on genetic risks, environmental factors, personalized medicine, and immunotherapy. These projects will generate critical insights to shape future treatment strategies and inform public health policies:

THRIVE – Tumour-host interactions in liver cancer of childhood and adults. In which ELPA is part of the consortium.

GLIOMATCH – The malignant Glioma immuno-oncology matchmaker: towards data-driven precision medicine using spatially resolved radio-multiomics.

MULTIR – MULti-Tumour based prediction and manipulation of Immune Response.

ARTURO – Assessing the role of intratumoral microbiota in therapy responses using patient-derived tumor-on-chip.

SPACETIME – SPatial Analysis of Cancer Evolution in the Tumour Immune MicroEnvironment.

HIT-GLIO – Targeting tumour-host interactions in paediatric malignant gliomas to reinvigorate immunity and improve radio- and immunotherapy efficacy.

With 2.7 million new cancer cases and 1.3 million deaths annually in Europe, the EU Cancer Mission, supported by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) and Horizon Europe, is dedicated to addressing this crisis. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the Understanding Tumour-Host Interactions Cluster is set to transform cancer research and patient care, driving Europe toward a future with improved outcomes and new scientific breakthroughs.



Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs - other participants, 1st Understanding Tumor-Host Interactions Cluster Meeting

MICROB-PREDICT 7th GA Meeting



MICROB-PREDICT 7th GA Meeting, Group picture

The MICROB-PREDICT General Assembly was held on January 27-29, 2025.

Partners discussed the latest results and project updates. Together, partners also celebrated exciting progress in the clinical study: MICROB-PREDICT's ALB-TRIAL has hit a significant milestone in January, with 25% of the targeted 240 patients enrolled across nine active centres in Europe, with more sites joining soon!

THRIVE annual meeting

The first annual meeting of THRIVE was held online on February 6, 2025, bringing together all Consortium partners and members of the External Advisory Board.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review the project's first-year achievements and discuss plans for the future.

ARTEMIs Annual Meeting

The second consortium meeting, on April 1 and 2, 2025, was hosted by partners from DKFZ in Heidelberg (Germany).

The global objective of this 4-year project, funded under the Horizon Europe Health programme, is the co-design, development, and proof-of-concept (PoC) evaluation of a Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) for application in the clinical management of patients with different stages of Metabolic Dysfunction–



Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs, ARTEMIS Annual Meeting

Associated Liver Disease (MASLD). As we celebrate the milestones of our first year, we remain committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation in clinical decision support. We are grateful to our consortium partners for their collaboration and expertise, and excited about the transformative potential of ARTEMIS to improve patient outcomes across Europe.

Viromarkers kick-off meeting

The Viromarkers project officially launched in Rome, Italy, on April 3–4, 2025, bringing together over 50 researchers, industry experts, and community partners from across Europe.

This cross-sectoral initiative, supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU), aimed to define and validate virus-related biomarkers to improve the management of chronic viral diseases, particularly in immunosuppressed individuals. The project focuses on identifying biomarkers that can guide antiviral treatment decisions and monitor disease progression in infections such as HIV, Hepatitis D (HDV), and Cytomegalovirus (CMV). Validation of these biomarkers and the underlying technologies is a key objective, as certified assays currently exist for only a few (e.g., HDV RNA), while others (like total HIV DNA) are expected to obtain certification soon. Viromarkers also includes all the necessary preparatory lab work to develop and refine investigational methods, laying the groundwork for future clinical use. Structured around multiple work packages (WPs), the project integrates scientific research with industrial innovation. WP1, led by Prof. Maurizio Zazzi of the University of Siena, focuses on HIV-1 susceptibility to broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs), supporting personalised treatment strategies. WP2, led by Prof.



Viromarkers kick-off meeting, Group picture

Valentina Svicher of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, aims to develop HDV biomarkers to optimise use of Bulevirtide, the first targeted therapy for HDV. WP3, coordinated by Prof. Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein, targets viral markers such as CMV-RNA and TTV-DNA to improve infection monitoring in transplant recipients. Diagnostic companies play a central role by contributing technical expertise, reagents, and tools, and supporting assay certification to bring biomarker tests closer to clinical adoption. Industry partner altona Diagnostics, represented by Sabina Schaal, highlighted the project's unique combination of research and industrial capabilities in advancing molecular diagnostics. The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) contributes to the Dissemination and Exploitation work package (WP5), ensuring that patient perspectives are represented in communication strategies and that outcomes are aligned with patient needs and advocacy goals.

GRIPonMASH Annual Meeting



Loane Block, ELPA Project Assistant - Veronika Všetickova, ELPA Head of EU Affairs - Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director, GRIPonMASH Annual Meeting

On April 10–11, 2025, the GRIPonMASH Consortium gathered for its 2nd annual meeting in the vibrant city of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

It was a pleasure to reconnect in person and witness the impressive progress shared by all work package leaders! The collaborative spirit, shared commitment, and remarkable milestones achieved highlight the strength of our consortium as we work together to advance the prevention and care of Metabolic dysfunction-Associated SteatoHepatitis (MASH).

Leopard General Assembly

LEOPARD Project's First Annual Meeting, held on April 3 and 4, 2015, hosted by consortium partner, Ophiomics, in Lisbon, Portugal, convened experts, researchers, and stakeholders dedicated to advancing liver transplantation and predictive modelling.



Leopard General Assembly, Group picture

The 2-day agenda featured comprehensive presentations and collaborative sessions across key work packages, including data management, clinical studies, statistical modelling, and OMICs signatures. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the project's progress, explored innovative data collection tools, addressed regulatory challenges, and refined dissemination strategies. A significant outcome of the meeting was the alignment on methodologies and the establishment of clear next steps for each work package, reinforcing our collective commitment to enhancing liver transplantation outcomes through collaborative research and innovation. Read more about the project [here](#).

Layperson Events at EASL Congress 2025

Every year, during the EASL Congress, ELPA organises several layperson events related to its involvement in scientific medical research.

This year, the highlighted projects were A-TANGO, LiverAim, and THRIVE.



HL4EU project meeting

From May 21- 24, 2025, Healthy Lifestyles for Europe (HL4EU) partners gathered for an in-person meeting. The meeting was hosted by the partner EPIONI as part of the 3rd edition of the Arts and Mental Health Festival. The timing during European Mental Health Week and the inspiring setting helped spark new ideas and fresh energy for our shared mission: promoting healthier lifestyles through cross-sector collaboration.

On the first day, partners reviewed what the project has achieved over the past 18 months. The significant milestone has been the launch of the Cross-Sectoral Good Practice Platform. EIEIM presented a deep analysis of the good practices submitted through desk research over the last six months. After a thorough data-cleaning process, 78 out of over 100 submissions were included. This data revealed which sectors are most active in collaborating to promote healthy lifestyles and the kinds of innovations taking place across Europe. This analysis provided valuable insights and inspired partners to explore other promising practices. EPIONI also shared an update on our ongoing Call for Good Practice Sharing. Inspiring submissions from organisations across Europe have been collected so far. These include projects focused on:

- Active cities and sustainable school transport
- Healthy youth development
- Urban planning that supports mobility and wellbeing
- Nutrition-focused research



Healthy Lifestyle for Europe project meeting, Group picture

IGOTCo led an engaging session on organising virtual focus groups. These sessions helped to better understand how cross-sector initiatives work in practice - what drives success and what challenges must be addressed. ENOS followed with a session on shaping policy recommendations and setting clear impact goals for the project.

On day two, EuropeActive presented the Healthy Lifestyles for Europe project at the Arts and Mental Health Festival. The audience included stakeholders from municipalities, health and arts sectors, universities, and medical associations, highlighting the decisive role of physical activity in mental health. Research shows that physical activity can boost mood, self-esteem, and brain function, while also reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety, often more effectively than therapy or medication alone.

HL4EU Good Practice Platform, invitation to collaborate

The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) is proud to be a partner in the Healthy Lifestyles for Europe (HL4EU) project, a forward-thinking initiative co-funded by the Erasmus+ Sport Programme of the European Union.

Launched in January 2024, HL4EU is dedicated to advancing cross-sector collaboration to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent non-communicable diseases through physical activity and active living. As part of its mission, HL4EU has launched a Call for Good Practice Sharing, inviting organisations and stakeholders across Europe to showcase their successful initiatives. The project seeks examples demonstrating collaboration across sectors such as health, sport, education, mobility, and patient care, with measurable impact on health promotion and disease prevention. ELPA's involvement ensures that the voice of liver patients is represented in this critical conversation, helping shape healthier environments supporting active living and early prevention. By bridging gaps between communities and sectors, HL4EU aims to break down silos, strengthen networks, and develop sustainable strategies that outlast the project timeline. Contributors whose initiatives are selected will have their projects featured on the HL4EU Good Practice Platform, a key resource that highlights real-world examples of cross-sector success. Selected participants may also be invited to virtual focus groups to contribute to developing policy recommendations to support healthier lifestyles across Europe. Organisations interested in contributing can submit their practices via the HL4EU website. This is a unique opportunity to inspire others, share impactful strategies, and be part of shaping the future of preventive health in Europe.

Data Analysis from the HL4EU platform practice

This report, written by project partners (EIEIM, De La Cruz Lastre L.D., & Steinacker J.), presents the results and analysis of the good practices collected within the HL4EU project as of August 2025.

These initiatives promote healthy lifestyles through physical activity across Europe and beyond. The assessment framework captures cross-sectoral cooperation and the quality, sustainability, and innovative character of the identified practices.

Read more here.



GENIAL annual general meeting

On June 11 and 12, 2025, the GENIAL project held its Annual General Meeting. The event gathered leading researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates to review the project's progress and align on next steps.

GENIAL is a Horizon Europe-funded project focused on alcohol-related hepatocellular carcinoma (ALD-HCC). It aims to uncover genetic risk factors, explore the role of environmental and lifestyle factors, and develop AI-powered tools to predict individual risk and guide early intervention. The project is structured around four main pillars:

Identifying genetic variants linked to ALD-HCC.

Investigating gene–environment interactions at cellular and molecular levels.

Characterising environmental risk factors in large European populations.



GENIAL annual general meeting, group picture

Enhancing public awareness and stakeholder engagement through strategic communication.

The European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) leads the project's communication and dissemination activities. ELPA ensures that complex scientific findings are translated into accessible information for patients, healthcare professionals, and the public. Through its broad network, ELPA facilitates meaningful patient involvement and contributes to shaping patient-centred outcomes.

Consensus Conference on Liver Health

On October 27, 2025, at Hospital Clínic Barcelona, the Consensus Conference on Liver Health was convened under the umbrella of the European H2020 LiverScreen Project.

The Project brought together experts in hepatology, cardiovascular medicine, endocrinology, epidemiology, public health, health economics, nursing, and patient advocacy. Over the course of the meeting, the development of the "LIVERHEALTH Consensus Criteria" was announced — a landmark initiative aimed at shifting the paradigm from "liver disease" to "liver health" and empowering both clinicians and patients to adopt more proactive, preventive care models. Throughout the event, ELPA contributed the patient-advocate voice, reinforcing the importance of early screening, equitable access to care, and meaningful involvement of patients in shaping healthcare strategies.



Milan Mishkovikj, ELPA Director - Pere Ginès, Clínic Barcelona – other participants, Consensus Conference on Liver Health

DECISION Final General Assembly

The DECISION consortium gathered in Madrid on October 8-10, 2025, for its final General Assembly Meeting after five years of collaboration, science, and discovery.

Since 2020, DECISION has united partners across Europe to advance research in acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF). Together, we've built an outstanding network, achieved essential results, and strengthened the bridge between science, clinics, and patients. The last meeting was both an opportunity to share and discuss our latest results and a chance to reflect on the journey we have taken together.



DECISION Final General Assembly, Group picture

LIVERATION Annual Consortium Meeting

On October 8, 2025, the 2nd Annual Meeting of the LIVERATION project took place in Paris — a key moment to review progress, align strategies, and define the next steps for the consortium.

The meeting opened with a presentation by Patricia Sánchez Velázquez, project coordinator, who highlighted the main achievements of the past year and emphasized the importance of continuing the clinical and scientific evaluation of our therapeutic strategy against liver cancer. Throughout the sessions, partners discussed scientific, clinical, ethical, and communication aspects, reinforcing the consortium's commitment to collaborative, rigorous, and patient-focused research. LIVERATION continues to strengthen a European network aimed



LIVERATION Annual Consortium Meeting, Group picture

at generating solid evidence to improve the management of liver cancer. We return with clear goals and renewed momentum.

IP-cure-B Final Meeting

As the EU-funded IP-Cure-B project reaches its conclusion in December 2025, ELPA proudly continues its active engagement in this major European research initiative dedicated to advancing novel treatment and cure strategies for chronic hepatitis B (CHB).

IP-Cure-B — coordinated by INSERM and supported by partners across Europe — has spent five years developing innovative immunomodulatory approaches, therapeutic vaccine strategies, and biomarker-driven models to improve the rate of functional cure for chronic hepatitis B, a disease that remains a major cause of liver disease worldwide. Throughout the project's lifecycle, ELPA has contributed to dissemination, patient engagement and advocacy efforts, ensuring that the patient voice is embedded in research priorities and future translation into clinical practice. As the project enters its final phase in December 2025, ELPA's participation underscores the importance of involving patient communities in cutting-edge research that may ultimately transform the landscape of HBV treatment and liver health outcomes in Europe. The culmination of IP-Cure-B's work represents a significant step toward achieving a functional cure for chronic hepatitis B, with implications for reducing long-term liver complications including cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma — outcomes of considerable burden for individuals, health systems, and society. ELPA remains committed to supporting the translation of research findings into policies and practices that benefit people living with liver disease and will continue to engage with partners, researchers and policymakers as new therapeutic opportunities evolve from the project's findings.



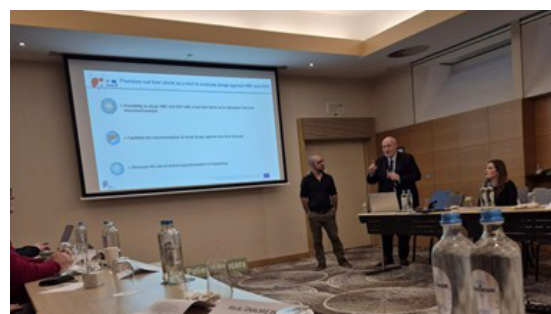
IP-cure-B Final Meeting, Group picture



IP-Cure-B layperson event

On December 4, 2025, ELPA organised a dedicated layperson event for its members as part of the IP-Cure-B project, offering patients and advocates a unique opportunity to learn more about cutting-edge research aimed at curing chronic hepatitis B.

The IP-Cure-B project is a large European research initiative bringing together scientists, clinicians, and patient organisations to find a functional cure for hepatitis B. While current treatments can control the virus, most people living with hepatitis B still require lifelong therapy and regular monitoring. IP-Cure-B aims to change this by developing innovative treatment strategies that could allow patients to stop therapy safely and live free from the long-term burden of the disease. During the event, ELPA members were introduced to the project's goals in clear, non-technical language, ensuring that complex scientific concepts were accessible to all. Researchers explained how the hepatitis B virus persists in the liver and why it has been so difficult to cure, as well as how IP-Cure-B is exploring new ways to target the virus more effectively. A key focus of the event was the importance of patient involvement in research. ELPA highlighted how patient perspectives help shape research priorities, improve study design, and ensure that future treatments reflect real-life needs, quality of life, and long-term safety. Participants also learned how patient input is integrated throughout the IP-Cure-B project, from planning clinical studies to communicating results.



*Armando Andres Roca Suarez, Lyon Hepatology Institute
- Massimo Levrero, Hospices Civils de Lyon, IP-Cure-B
layperson event*

LIVERAIM General Assembly

The Consortium held its second official meeting on December 2, 2025, bringing together partners for a full-day, in-person working session.



LIVERAIM General Assembly, Group picture

The meeting took place in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Barcelona, an excellent venue that fostered productive discussions and collaboration. Throughout the day, project partners reviewed the progress achieved during the first months of work, shared updates on ongoing tasks, and aligned on priorities for the next phases of the project. The meeting also provided a significant opportunity to strengthen coordination across work packages, identify emerging challenges, and refine the strategic direction of upcoming activities. In addition to technical sessions, the gathering reinforced the spirit of partnership that underpins the Consortium, enabling fruitful exchanges among researchers, clinicians, and institutional representatives. This second meeting marks a significant milestone in the project's timeline and lays the groundwork for the work that will follow in 2026.



SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

 ELPA Website

TOTAL VISITS:

928,310**x**

FOLLOWERS

10k**Facebook**

FOLLOWERS

3k**LinkedIn**

FOLLOWERS

4k**YouTube**

VIEWS

66,853**Instagram**

FOLLOWERS

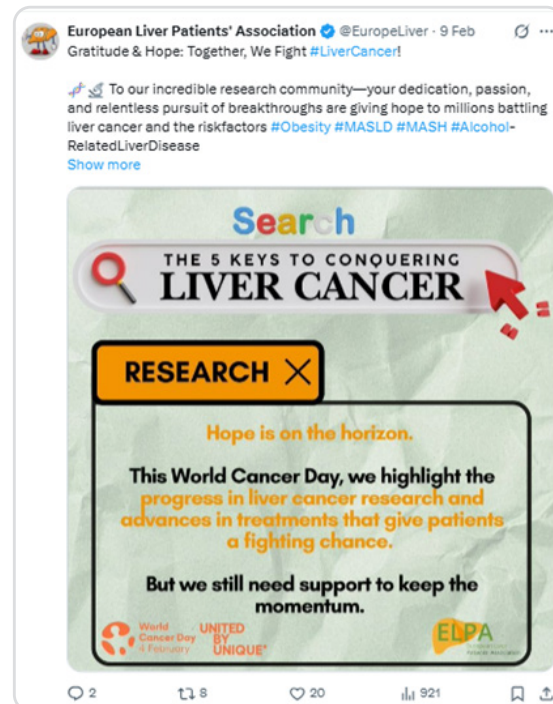
1k**X, Facebook
& Others**

IMPRESSIONS

1.2 Billion

ELPA's most successful Social Media Campaigns

World Cancer Day and Cholangiocarcinoma Day 2025



World Immunisation Week 2025

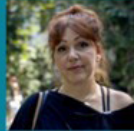


MARKO KORENJAK
ELPA President

“ELPA reaffirms its commitment to advancing hepatitis B vaccination, which also prevents infection with the hepatitis D virus, as a fundamental tool in preventing liver disease and saving lives. Hepatitis B vaccination was recognised as a key component in Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

But recognition is not enough—we must now deliver. We call on all stakeholders to implement every action and fulfil every commitment outlined in the Plan. Only through comprehensive and equitable access to vaccination across Europe can we truly turn the tide on cancer and liver disease.”





IVANA DRAGOJEVIĆ
ELPA Vice President

“We must remember that hepatitis B vaccination, which also prevents infection with the hepatitis D virus, is not just a scientific achievement—it is a human right. While progress has been made, inequities in access to vaccines still leave too many behind, particularly in marginalised and underserved communities.

The ELPA Hepatitis B Working Group calls on governments and healthcare systems to address these gaps with urgency and fairness. Immunisation must be for all, not just for some.”




European Week Against Cancer

European Liver Patients' Association @EuropeLiver · 29 May
Digital Innovation Saves Lives

From AI-powered diagnostics to remote monitoring and virtual consultations — technology is revolutionizing #livercancer care! 🧠💡❤️

Every click, every scan, every smart tool brings us closer to early detection, better treatment, and

[Show more](#)



Technology is transforming liver cancer care.

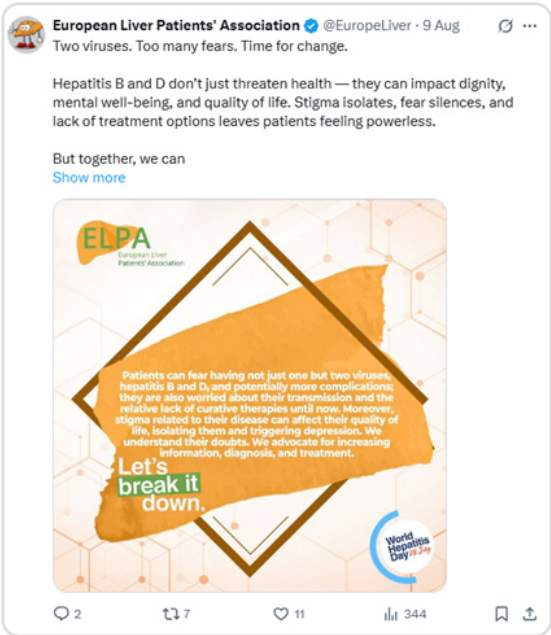
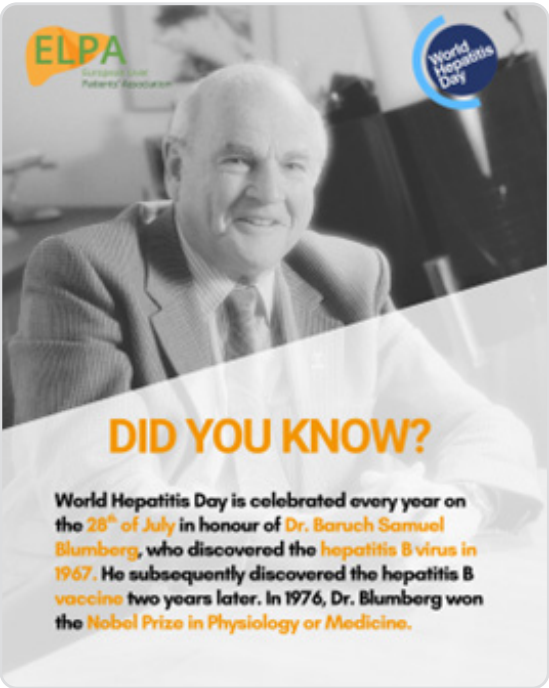
AI tools, remote monitoring, and e-consults help doctors detect and manage liver disease earlier. Let's harness digital innovation for better outcomes.



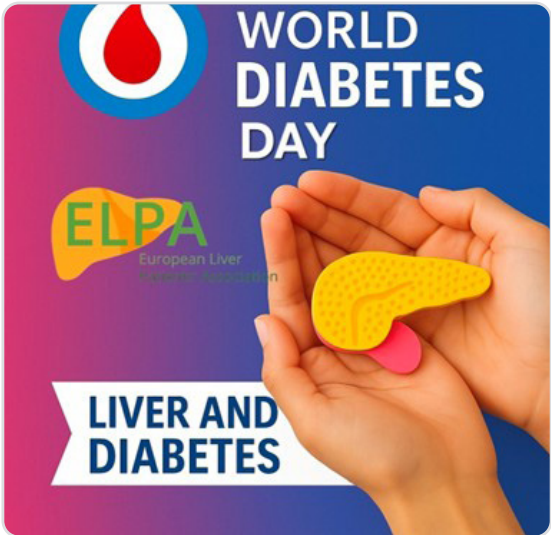

Your liver works 24/7 – protect it.
Up to 90% of liver cancer cases are preventable. Get vaccinated against hepatitis B, limit alcohol, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Prevention starts with awareness.



World Hepatitis Day 2025



ELPA’s support to its members, stakeholders, supporters and friends’ campaigns







ELPA STRUCTURE

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Editorial Team

Leader	Dr. Hilal Ünalmiş Duda Ph.D.		Turkey
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Head of EU affairs	Veronika Všetíčková		Czech Republic		Belgium
Head of ELPA office	Beatrice Credi		Italy		Belgium
Project assistant	Loane Block		France		Belgium
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ELPA WORKING GROUPS

In 2025, ELPA officially had ten Working Groups. ELPA Working Groups are a way to create Expert Patients in a specific field of liver diseases.

ELPA Working Group on Rare Liver Diseases

LEADER	Sindee Weinbaum		Israel
MEMBERS	Richard Hall		UK
	Lone McColaugh		Denmark
	Tarja Teitto-Tuckett		Finland
	Eduardo Lopez		Spain
	Dr. Teresa Casanovas Taltavull M.D.		Spain

In 2025, the Group coordinated many campaigns on ELPA channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

- Rare Disease week – February 2025
- International PBC Day – September 14h
- PFIC International Day – October 5th
- Global PSC Awareness Day – October 29th – PSC Turning Hope into Action, with PSC patient organizations from around the world.

Also, the group actively participated in many events:

- PBC International Summit – April 07-11, Edinburgh – Hierarchy of Patient's needs, Quality of Life, Innovations on Patient care pathway, PBC care in 2025
- Alpha-1 Liver Disease Solutions Expert Patient Council at EASL 2025 – May 6th 2025
- PSC Forum – Remote Participation – Forum for Collaborative Research
- PSC Patients Seeking a Cure – conference in Denver CO USA – September 11th-16th 2025
- Global Liver Institute: Pediatric and Rare Disease Council – Representing ELPA in periodical virtual meetings

Working with the clinical trials Working Group, the group explained clinical trials and the importance of participating in helping find a cure and/or treatment. It also co-authored the PBC Journey with Ipsen and the PSC Itch Survey with Mirum.

Engagement with all major PSC support groups worldwide—USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Macedonia, and Israel—continued. In addition, the Group renewed its commitment as part of many other groups.

ELPA Working Group on Primary Liver Cancer

LEADER	Milan Mishkovikj		North Macedonia
MEMBERS	Lone McColaugh		Denmark
	Sindee Weinbaum		Israel
	Marko Korenjak		Slovenia

2025 was an extraordinary year for liver cancer advocacy within ELPA, ensuring liver cancer was on the radar of the most influential European institutions. The Group proudly took part in high-level events organized by the European Parliament, European Commission, and other EU institutions, making enormous contributions to ensure liver cancer and liver patients were part of every major discussion—from World Cancer Day events to key EU Summits and health conferences. These efforts reached a peak with the 3rd European Liver Screening Week in October, Liver Cancer Month. They ensured that early detection, prevention, equity, and access to treatment were top priorities on the EU health agenda. Liver cancer wasn't just a topic for one month or one day—it was part of many other ELPA activities. From Fatty Liver Month, World Hepatitis Day, European Hepatitis-HIV Weeks, Obesity Day, and Alcohol Awareness Week, the key risk factors were highlighted. ELPA advanced critical policy discussions, contributing to White Papers, Calls to Action, and aligning liver cancer within the EU Cancer Plan. However, fighting for the inclusion of liver cancer screening in the EU's official screening programs is the Group's biggest mission.

ELPA Working Group on Clinical Trials

LEADER	Julio Burman		Israel
MEMBERS	Dr. Teresa Casanovas Taltavull M.D.		Spain
	Yiannoula Koulla		Cyprus

The group was in contact with pharmaceutical companies, served on many advisory boards, and contributed to the development of phase three of many clinical trials. It was responsible for collecting and researching clinical trials in various countries to help ELPA members with up-to-date information. They participated in many meetings and webinars about this topic and encouraged two ELPA members to complete the EUPATI training and become Fellows. The group is constantly in touch with pharmaceutical companies to keep the clinical trial list updated for all ELPA members.

ELPA Working Group on Harm Reduction

LEADER	Aleksey Lakhov		Russia
MEMBERS	Jovan Dašić		Montenegro
	Saša Mijović		Montenegro

In 2025, the Harm Reduction Working Group continued to strengthen its advocacy and collaboration efforts within the region and at the international level. The group welcomed two new active members, Jovan Dašić and Saša Mijović from NGO4Life in Montenegro, further enhancing our representation and regional expertise in community-led harm reduction. Regular coordination meetings and knowledge exchange sessions supported progress on key thematic priorities, including integration of harm reduction services and addressing stigma and discrimination. The group also engaged with international partners to align advocacy goals with global developments in HIV, hepatitis, and substance use policy. In preparation for 2026, we developed a clear engagement plan to ensure the Working Group's presence and contribution at major international forums, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), and the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) conference. These planned participations will help expand our advocacy reach, foster stronger alliances, and ensure that community perspectives remain central to policy discussions in the coming year.

ELPA Working Group on Steatotic Liver Disease (SLD)

LEADER	Yiannoula Koulla		Cyprus
MEMBERS	Lone McColaugh		Denmark
	Sindee Weinbaum		Israel
	Moisés Serrano Carrillo		Spain
	Tarja Teitto-Tuckett		Finland
	Veronika Všetíčková		Slovenia
	Dr. Teresa Casanovas Taltavull M.D.		Spain
	Dr. Reham Soliman M.D.		Egypt
	Selly Sickout		France
	Hana Vrabcová		Slovakia

In 2025, the ELPA Working Group on Steatotic Liver Disease (SLD) strengthened its role as a leading advocate in the fight against SLD, including Metabolic dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) and Metabolic dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH). Throughout the year, the group implemented a series of impactful initiatives aimed at raising awareness, influencing policy, and advancing research to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of SLD.

One of the key highlights of the year was the organization of high-profile awareness campaigns, which engaged both the general public and healthcare professionals. These campaigns featured educational webinars, patient stories, and expert discussions, effectively shedding light on the importance of early detection and lifestyle interventions. The working group also successfully hosted roundtable discussions, bringing together researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and patient representatives to explore the latest advancements and challenges in managing SLD.

In collaboration with European health authorities and medical societies, the working group also played a crucial role in influencing policy discussions, advocating for SLD to be recognised as a major public health

issue. Their efforts contributed to new policy recommendations aimed at integrating SLD screening and management into national healthcare systems, ensuring better support for patients at risk, especially those with comorbidities such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.

The ELPA Working Group on SLD not only expanded its reach and impact but also strengthened collaborations with key stakeholders in the medical, research, and policymaking communities. Their vision of reducing the burden of SLD through education, research, and systemic policy change remained at the heart of their mission, ensuring continued progress in tackling this increasingly prevalent liver disease.

ELPA Working Group on Prevention

LEADER	Ivana Dragojević		Serbia
MEMBERS	Julio Burman		Israel
	Marko Korenjak		Slovenia

Primary prevention examines the phenomenon's assumptions, conditions, and causes and looks for ways to avoid them. Secondary prevention seeks to prevent the deepening of the spreading. It focuses on particularly vulnerable groups such as young people, minorities, or the socially disadvantaged. Tertiary prevention aims to prevent a recurrence. This group aims to promote prevention as a critical piece of the puzzle. We are trying to do that by developing two projects, HepFreeBadge -education of professionals in the beauty parlours and Women and HBV.

Long-term goals for the project HepFreeBadge are:

- Standardization of procedures in beauty parlours according to EU standards-sterilization protocol. Modernisation and increasing the level of service in beauty parlours.
- Extension of statutory regulations regarding additional controls that include sterilisation control.
- Reducing the possibility of transmitting viral hepatitis infection while providing services in beauty parlours and decreasing stigma and discrimination.

Women and HBV project will focus on women, who are someone's girlfriends, wives, and mothers, through 12 topics. So, the target group is women, but the focus is on the general population. The content of the given topic will be adapted to an ordinary woman without incomprehensible medical terms and focused on real-life situations.

ELPA Working Group on Hepatitis B and D

LEADER	Ivana Dragojević		Serbia
MEMBERS	Marinela Debu		Romania
	Dr. Reham Soliman M.D.		Egypt
	Selly Sickout		France

Jovan Dašić		Montenegro
Dr. Vesna Lučić Samardžić M.D.		Bosnia & Herzegovina
Zdenko Simonović		Bosnia & Herzegovina

Knowledge and awareness about Hepatitis B (HBV) have always been at the core of the association and a priority for its members. ELPA has been working on Hepatitis awareness and elimination since its creation. However, this Working Group has been collecting updated and relevant information to push forward Hepatitis B elimination and achieve this goal in collaboration with other Working Groups. This group aims to provide tools for chronic HBV patients to live their lives as safely as possible. In 2025, the Group welcomed new members and worked on its work plan, planning activities to support patients and collecting strong data to support its advocacy commitment.

ELPA Working Group on Cirrhosis

LEADER	Marko Korenjak		Slovenia
MEMBER	Julio Burman		Israel

The Working Group on Cirrhosis continued to closely monitor developments in the field throughout 2025. All activities were implemented in accordance with the ELPA work plan and were aligned with agreed EU medical research projects focusing on cirrhosis. Members of the group actively collaborated with other ELPA working groups on cross-cutting issues related to cirrhosis. In 2025, the Working Group on Cirrhosis intensified its activities further. The group was particularly proud of ELPA's participation in the Awareness Week on Alcohol-Related Harm (AWARH) 2025. In addition, recognising the ongoing importance of this topic, ELPA launched a dedicated social media campaign in December 2025 to raise awareness of alcohol-related harm during the winter festive period.

The multicultural ELPA Working Group

LEADER	Dr Tove Frisch Ph.D.		Sweden
MEMBERS	Dr Teresa Casanovas Taltavull M.D.		Spain
	Eduardo López		Spain
	Prof Dr Gamal Shiha M.D.		Egypt
	Sindee Weinbaum		Israel
	Richard Hall		UK
	Dr Hilal Unalmış Duda Ph.D.		Turkey
	Prof Dr Soo Aleman M.D., Ph.D.		Sweden
	Dr Erik Baecklund		Sweden

Penilla Gunther		Sweden	
Farhad Khaghani		Iran	 Sweden
Esso Ouro-Nimini		Togo	 Sweden

During 2025, the Multicultural Working Group focused on consolidating past research, organizing a major international conference, and preparing for in-depth analysis work. The year began with listening to and taking notes from interviews conducted in 2023 and 2024, followed by continued review and the first planning meeting for the multicultural conference in Sweden. In spring, the group expanded by introducing extra members to enrich discussions, while intensifying preparations by engaging speakers, coordinating conference logistics, and planning cultural activities. The conference took place from 16–23 May in Mariédamm and Stockholm and combined lectures, discussions, completion of interviews, cultural events, and health-focused activities linked to Swedish food and nature. Meetings were also held with Fokus Patient, the PBC organization, and members of RHC to strengthen cooperation and exchange knowledge. After the conference, the group worked on developing analytical tools, held online discussions on questionnaire interpretations, and carried out extensive transcription of interviews, speeches, and discussions. The year concluded with final transcriptions, compilation of extensive interview material, and a face-to-face meeting in Stockholm for joint reflection, reconciliation, and preparation for the forthcoming analysis phase.



Ivana Dragojević, ELPA Vice President - Sindee Wenbaum, Israeli Association for the Health of the Liver, Hetz - Hilal Unalmış Duda, Living with Hepatitis Association, HEPYAŞAM, Group Meeting

ELPA Working Group on Alcohol and Liver Diseases

LEADER	Richard Hall		United Kingdom
MEMBERS	Sindee Weinbaum		Israel
	Tarja Teitto-Tuckett		Finland
	Dr. Teresa Casanovas Taltavull M.D.		Spain
	Dr. Savvas Milios M.D.		Cyprus

The ELPA Working Group on Alcohol and Liver Diseases was established in 2024 to address the increasing burden of alcohol-related liver diseases across Europe. With a strong commitment to raising awareness, the working group focuses on educating the public and healthcare providers about the risks of alcohol-related liver diseases while advocating for evidence-based policies to reduce harm. Through collaboration with researchers and institutions, the group also supports scientific advancements aimed at improving patient care and outcomes. Their vision is to create a future where alcohol-related liver diseases are significantly reduced through effective prevention strategies, early detection, and access to high-quality treatment. By fostering partnerships and promoting policy changes at national and European levels, the ELPA Working Group strives to ensure that patients receive the care they need while reducing the overall public health impact of alcohol-related liver conditions.



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND TRANSPARENCY

Word from ELPA Tresurer

The financial position of the European Liver Patients' Association remained strong in the fiscal year 2025. ELPA achieved this through wise expense management combined with a successful fundraising performance.

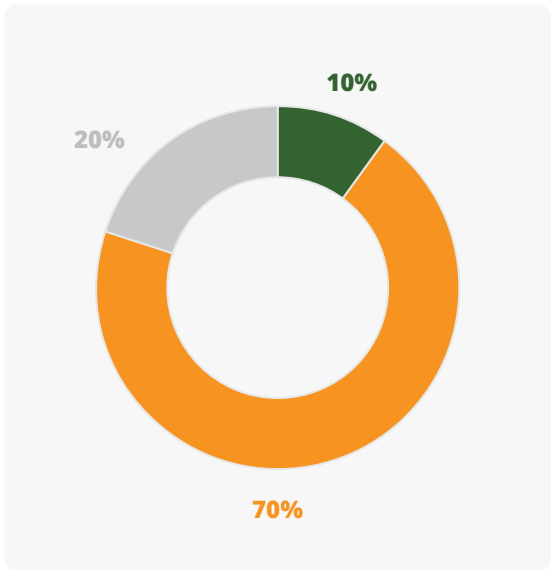
The fundraising activities conducted during 2025 made the association less dependent on pharmaceutical companies' contributions, expanding the proportion of funding coming from different sources.

Ivana Dragojević, ELPA Treasurer

Publishing financial reports

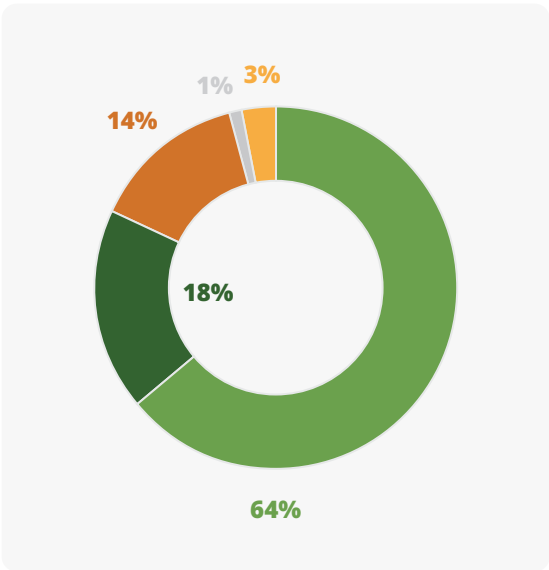
All financial reports of ELPA from 2007 are published every year and can be found on our webpage: www.elpa.eu

Revenue 2025



- Core funding
- ELPA's projects
- EU project

Expenditure 2025



- ELPA work
- Operational expenses
- Wages and fees
- Depreciation
- Financial charges/income



(EUR)	31/12/2025	31/12/2024
Assets		
Fixed assets	23 482,24	30 176,20
III. Tangible fixed assets	20 082,24	26 776,20
B. Plant, machinery and equipment	20 082,24	26 776,20
C. Furniture and vehicles	0,00	0,00
IV. Financial fixed assets	3 400,00	3 400,00
C. Other financial fixed assets	3 400,00	3 400,00
2. Amounts receivable and cash guarantees	3 400,00	3 400,00
Current assets	529 164,68	797 006,59
VII. Amounts receivable within one year	5 000,00	5 000,00
B. Other amounts receivable	5 000,00	5 000,00
IX. Cash at bank and in hand	456 704,82	721 749,14
X. Accruals and deferred income	67 459,86	70 257,45
Total assets	552 646,92	827 182,79
Equity and liabilities		
Equity	509 248,16	719 456,54
III. Reserves	70 082,24	76 776,20
A. Reserves not available	70 082,24	76 776,20
4. Other	70 082,24	76 776,20
IV. Accumulated profits (+)/ losses (-)	439 165,92	642 680,34
Amounts payable	43 398,76	107 726,25
IX. Amounts payable within one year	43 398,76	39 413,22
C. Trade debts	21 692,88	16 444,51
1. Suppliers	21 692,88	16 444,51
E. Taxes, remuneration and social security	21 705,88	22 968,71
1. Taxes	2 269,20	4 413,15
2. Remuneration and social security	19 436,68	18 555,56
X. Accruals and deferred income	0,00	68 313,03
Total liabilities	552 646,92	827 182,79
Profit and loss account		
I. Operating income	904 562,66	865 881,53
A. Turnover	903 243,16	864 726,33
D. Other operating income	1 319,50	1 155,20
II. Operating charges	1 079 422,93	1 081 773,74
A. Goods for resale, raw materials and consumables	716 299,19	748 686,61
1. Purchases	716 299,19	748 686,61





B. Services and other goods	196 968,07	180 971,69
C. Remunerations, social security costs and pensions	159 461,71	143 815,59
D. Amortisations of and other amounts written down on formation expenses, intangible and tangible fixed assets	6 693,96	6 942,63
G. Other operating charges	0,00	1 357,22
III. Operating profit/loss	-174 860,27	-215 892,21
IV. Financial income	9 129,54	24 217,79
A. Income from financial fixed assets	426,99	425,37
C. Other financial income	8 702,55	23 792,42
V. Financial charges	44 477,65	12 045,06
A. Debt charges	571,00	350,20
C. Other financial charges	43 906,65	11 694,86
VI. Profit/loss of the period before taxes	-210 208,38	-203 719,48
IX. Profit/loss of the period	-210 208,38	-203 719,48
X. Transfer from/to untaxed reserves	6 693,96	6 693,96
A. Transfer from untaxed reserves	6 693,96	6 693,96
XI. Profit/loss of the period available for appropriation	-203 514,42	-197 025,52
Appropriation account	0,00	0,00
A. Profit/loss to be appropriated	439 165,92	642 680,34
1. Profit/Loss of the period available for appropriation	-203 514,42	-197 025,52
2. Profits/loss of the preceding period brought forward	642 680,34	839 705,86
D. Profit/loss to be carried forward	439 165,92	642 680,34
1. Profit to be carried forward	-439 165,92	-642 680,34



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ELPA is thankful to all its members and numerous volunteers that have helped us accomplish our goals in 2025. We are also grateful to all our supporters and stakeholders. They have been backing our endeavours to fight liver disease over the years.

In 2025, ELPA received grants as well as, in some cases, in-kind support from the following companies:



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