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You Impact! From Citizen Involvement to EU Policy Impact

## Improving patients' rights in the age of the Cross Border Healthcare Directive

*An European debate and webinar among Institutions, experts, civic & patient organizations, students*

*Istituto Luigi Sturzo, Sala Rossa - Via delle Coppelle n.35, Roma  
10.30 – 15.00  
Rome, 4 of March, 2016*

10.30 – 10.45

**Welcome and Introduction by the Co-Chair**

Gina Di Liegro, Secretary General Luigi Di Liegro International Foundation

- Saluto e ringraziamento ai partecipanti, presenti e online.
- Breve presentazione tua e della Fondazione che presiedi.

### Introduction

The event is a conference-webinar involving online and on-the-spot participation of national and international experts. For this reason, we are all kindly invited to speak in English. However, translation from English to Italian only is provided by three students (Alessia, Eleonora, Sara) attending a postgraduate course in Conference Interpreting – at IULM University in Rome and that we thank in advance for their work. Of course the translation is also available from those who want to ask questions to the speakers.

The meeting can be followed in streaming, and it is divided into three parts: in the first one, with the help of two professors, we will analyse the issue of patients' rights within the framework of cross-border healthcare.

In the second one, starting from experiences and case histories from several EU countries, we will debate a proposal to improve cross-border patients' rights at EU level.

In the third part, after lunch, we will be invited to join our efforts to take part in a European communication campaign on cross-border healthcare.

### The aims of the initiative

Of course, debate and interactions are encouraged during all the meeting, which in fact aims to contribute to:

- Promote a constructive debate on a crucial achievement for European citizens and patients, the Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare, as well as on the current state of its implementation throughout Europe. The fact that the Directive title contains the words "patients' rights" demonstrates that this normative highlights the relation between citizens/patients and healthcare systems.
- Discuss concrete actions in order to facilitate access to better and safer care for patients in the EU.

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- Raise awareness through examples of “grass-root” participation, and show how civic organizations can play an active role in the European policy making affecting patients' rights.

### Framework

Before giving the floor to the co-chair, I would like to remind you that this initiative is part of the EU project “From Citizen Involvement to Policy Impact”, funded under the Europe for Citizens Program of the European Commission.

The project coordinates citizen involvement with the public authorities on national and European level in nine European countries in order to increase the impact of citizen initiatives on the policy making process in the European Union.

Partners of the project are non-profit organizations active in promoting citizens’ participation at European level from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Romania, Spain, and Italy, represented by CittadinanzattivaOnlus, the organizer of this event.

Under this project, Cittadinanzattiva had the commitment to organise an event on the topic of “Improving EU Citizens’ Rights in the European Union”. As the topic is very broad, Cittadinanzattiva has therefore decided to focus on one of its expertise, which is the strengthening and protection of patients’ rights. Indeed, Cittadinanzattiva is officially recognised by the EU Commission-DG Santé as European stakeholder in the fields of public health and healthcare, as Mariano is ready to show you. Please, Mariano, the floor is yours.

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