

MYELOMA EURONET POSITION STATEMENT: EUROPEAN MYELOMA PATIENT GROUP COOPERATION

Myeloma Euronet is a registered international non-profit network organization that promotes partnership amongst myeloma patient organizations across national boundaries throughout Europe in order to raise awareness of multiple myeloma. Member groups provide support and information on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of persons living with myeloma, promote standards of care, and advocate the cause of myeloma patients, where appropriate, amongst European Union health care policy makers.

Myeloma Euronet members actively exchange information amongst themselves to share best practices, establish new programmes, and encourage the development of new multiple myeloma patient organizations in countries and regions in Europe where they do not currently exist. Network members are uniquely positioned to understand the needs and concerns of European myeloma patients because they are physically located within individual countries in Europe, are natives of the countries they serve, speak the languages of their constituents, and understand the distinct cultures and backgrounds of their respective countries. They know their patients and the doctors and other health care professionals who serve them well.

Although a relatively new organization, Myeloma Euronet is dynamic and vigorous: Membership has quadrupled since the network's founding about two years ago. Member organisations are drawn from countries across Europe, including Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Because membership in the network is free and there are no dues, Myeloma Euronet does not threaten national fundraising appeals by member groups.

The network meets in person annually, and via telephone and the Internet on a regular basis throughout the year. Myeloma Euronet works to be the voice of the European myeloma patient. The network is committed to the idea that partnership best advocates the cause of myeloma patients. It believes that competition and duplication of effort amongst myeloma patient groups work to the detriment of myeloma patients everywhere. To that end, the network actively encourages European patient groups to work together in partnership, rather than working against each other and thus damaging the credibility of the European myeloma patient community.

For further information, please contact the Myeloma Euronet Secretariat or representatives of Myeloma Euronet member groups. Please visit www.myeloma-euronet.org for member contact details.

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