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(ELPA)

Function: Board Director

Main expertise (1-2 lines): Patient empowerment and healthcare innovation, healthcare communication, media relations, and PR.



The Patient's Perspective: Awareness & Prevention for Liver Cancer

ELPA's Advocacy & Policy Success in
North Macedonia & Beyond

Milan Mishkovikj
ELPA Director



ELPA

European Liver
Patients' Association

ELPA – THE BIGGEST LIVER PATIENT ASSOCIATION

-39 patient organizations from 29 WHO European Region countries.

-Bridging gaps between patients, policymakers, and scientific communities.

Sharing best practices, research, and policy approaches across Europe.

-Empowering local patient organisations.

-Influencing European Health policies initiatives and programs (EU Cancer Plan, Horizon Europe, EU Health Union etc.).

"Nothing for us, without us!" – The power of patient advocacy.

**ALBANIA**

Albanian Association
"Patients with hepatitis"

**BELGIUM**

VHC – Vlaams Hepatitis Contactpunt

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients
Association, "B18"

**CYPRUS**

Cyprus Liver Patients Association

**CROATIA**

HUHIV

**DENMARK**

Leverforeningen

**EGYPT**

Association of Liver Patients' Care – ALPC

**FINLAND**

The Finnish Kidney and Liver Association

**FRANCE**

Fédération des Déficiants et Transplantés
Hépatiques - TRANSHÉPATE
Fédération SOS hépatites France

**GEORGIA**

Hepatitis C Cured Patient Association

**HUNGARY**

Hungarian Association of Chronic
Hepatitis Patients – VIMOR

**IRELAND**

Hepatitis C Partnership

**ISRAEL**

Hetz – Israeli Association For The Health
Of the Liver

**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 Hépatites

**ROMANIA**

APAH-RO Romania

**RUSSIA**

Humanitarian Action
United Against Hepatitis

**SERBIA**

Liver Patients' Association – HRONOS

**SLOVAKIA**

HEP HELP KLUB
Šanca pre pečeň
SKLON

**SLOVENIA**

Slovenian Association for patients with
viral hepatitis - SLOVENIA HEP

**SPAIN**

Catalan Association of Liver Patients -
ASSCAT

Catalan Federation of Rare Diseases -
FECAMM

National Federation of Liver Patients
and Transplanted - FNETH

Spanish Patient Organization Lysosomal
Acid Lipase Deficiency - AE LALD

**SWEDEN**

Riksföreningen Hepatit C – RHC

**TURKEY**

HEPYAŞAM – Living with Hepatitis
Association

**UNITED KINGDOM**

British Liver Trust
HEP C POSITIVE
Liver4Life

39 MEMBERS
29 COUNTRIES



THE PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON LIVER CANCER



- Are awareness and prevention adequate?
- Many patients, families, and risk groups remain uninformed.
- Late diagnosis, and lack of screening hinder early detection.
- Why patient organizations must lead the charge:
 - Patients and families drive awareness, demand action, and push for change.
 - ELPA represents 200M liver patients across WHO Europe

POLICY ADVOCACY & SUCCESS AT THE EU LEVEL

- Active contributor to the EU Cancer Plan.
- Pushing for liver cancer to be recognized as a priority in EU policies.
- Engaging with EU institutions & MEPs to ensure early detection programs.
- European Liver Screening Week – Bringing liver health to the European Parliament!
- Under patronage of the President of the European Parliament.



ELPA
European Liver Patients' Association
20 YEARS FOR PATIENTS
2005 - 2025



NORTH MACEDONIA – A HISTORIC SUCCESS STORY (ELPA BOOTS ON THE GROUND)

-Local action with global and European implications.

-Actions for World Hepatitis Day in North Macedonia:

- 10 cities, 2 prisons, 3 harm reduction centers.
- 1,500 people tested, 4,500 tests conducted, 800 elastographies.
- Connected high-risk patients to care

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES!

NORTH MACEDONIA – A HISTORIC SUCCESS STORY (ELPA BOOTS ON THE GROUND)


- 1st Official Liver Cancer Screening Program approved!
- Led by ELPA member Hepar Centar Bitola, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- The journey:
 - 3-year pilot screening program – proving the need for nationwide implementation.
 - From liver cancer working group to official Commission for Early Detection in Ministry of Health.

GLOBAL IMPACT – ELPA'S WORK IN ISRAEL THROUGH ELPA VP AND HETZ LIVER

- Supporting the Israeli screening program for liver cancer.
- Advocating for early detection models that can be adopted across countries.
- Ensuring liver cancer screening is part of national health strategies worldwide.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Expanding screening programs across Europe. Universal screening program adopted from EU.
 - Strengthening partnerships with policymakers, researchers, and clinicians.
 - Pushing for an EU-wide strategy for liver cancer prevention and early detection.
 - Patient voices must be at the table – and ELPA will ensure they are heard!
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CALL TO ACTION – JOIN THE FIGHT!

- We are changing lives – but we can't do it alone!
- Policymakers, scientists, doctors, and patient advocates must work together.
- Join ELPA in the fight for early liver cancer detection and patient-centered care.
- "Screening Saves Lives – Let's Make It Happen Everywhere!"
- Bridging the gaps and starting the patient voice together with cardiovascular, diabetes, and obesity communities.