FEBRUARY 2025

Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Uniting for kidney health: empowering lives, enhancing futures.



Coordinated by

JUAN CARLOS JULIÁN
Responsible for the Action Plan

MÓNICA SUENGAS
EKPF Manager

EKPF
EUROPEAN KIDNEY PATIENTS' FEDERATION
CEAPIR

Uniting for Kidney Health:
Empowering Lives, Enhancing Futures

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Towards 2028: EKPF Strategic Action Plan for Patient-Centered Impact

The European Kidney Patients' Federation (EKPF) brings together national patient organisations to improve the lives of people living with kidney disease across Europe. In a context of rising chronic conditions and increasing inequalities in access to care, the voice of patients is more needed than ever.

This Strategic Action Plan 2026–2028 sets out the key areas of focus and concrete actions that EKPF will pursue over the next three years. Building on our manifesto, our previous projects (REACH, SHAPE), and the feedback of our member organisations, this plan aims to strengthen our role as a facilitator, advocate, and connector at European level.

Our approach is realistic, grounded in collaboration, and shaped by the priorities that matter most to kidney patients. With this plan, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- Patient empowerment
- Policy engagement
- Knowledge sharing
- Stronger community ties

Let's move forward, together.





Our team

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Daniel Gallego
President



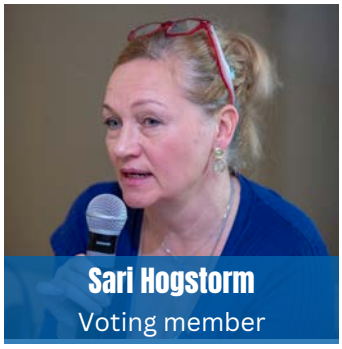
Emily Petrides
Vice-president



Jan Van Cruchten
Secretary



Lars Skar
Treasurer



Sari Hogstorm
Voting member



Hakan Hedman
Voting member

MAP OF THE FEDERATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Elected every 4 years

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

SECRETARY

JUAN CARLOS JULIÁN
Action Plan Responsible

MÓNICA SUENGAS
EKPF Manager

What we have achieved

This section summarises the progress made on the priorities defined in the previous EKPF Action Plan (2019–2024).

While several new initiatives and projects have since emerged, the achievements highlighted here reflect the objectives initially included in that plan. Some priorities have evolved or expanded, setting the foundations for the new 2026–2028 Strategic Plan.

Prevention and Early Detection

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) prevention among high-risk groups — notably diabetes, hypertension, and obesity — promoting annual kidney function monitoring

➡ **PREVENT-CKD project:** development of the EKPF Prevention Code and promotion of kidney screening in EU health discussions — proving prevention is one of the most cost-effective tools against CKD

➡ **High-risk group alliances:** MoUs and collaborations with liver and diabetes organisations; contribution to the Type 2 Diabetes Report.

➡ **Policy advocacy:** representation at the European Parliament through EKHA Forums, keeping prevention on the EU health agenda

Choice of Treatment

Promote patient-centred care by ensuring all kidney patients are informed and empowered to choose the treatment that best fits their needs and lifestyle

➡ **Advocacy through EKHA and the European Parliament —** pushing for treatment choice and equity as core elements of EU kidney policy

➡ **Knowledge sharing on home dialysis —** participation in webinars, reports, and collaborative papers to highlight home therapies as safe and patient-centred options.

➡ **FAIR Project (Living Kidney Donation) —** active engagement in promoting living donation and improving awareness and accessibility through international partnerships.

Patient Empowerment and Self-Care

Strengthen patients' autonomy, education, and participation through shared knowledge, peer support, and active involvement

➡ **Exchange of good practices:** creation of common learning spaces through the EKPF Annual Summit, gathering national experiences and showcasing successful self-care programmes.

➡ **Collaboration with patient organisations and European networks:** joint initiatives to share educational tools and promote multilingual access to reliable information.

➡ **Empowering communities:** launch of initiatives such as IgAN Friends or KREW Camp, supporting peer learning, youth engagement, and cross-country solidarity among kidney patients.

Social needs and protection

Promote wellbeing, protection rights and quality of life for people living with kidney disease

➡ **FAIR Project**: creation of the FAIR Manifesto and multilingual webinars on the psychosocial and sociolaboral protection of living donors, setting the foundation for European awareness and ethical standards.

➡ **Improving quality of life**: development of the CKD-aP White Paper on pruritus and wellbeing, raising visibility of daily life challenges faced by kidney patients.

➡ **Advocacy on social protection:** contribution to discussions linking kidney health with mental health, employment and inclusion, through collaborations with partners and EU stakeholders.

Participation & Representation

Ensure kidney patients are represented and included in European and global health discussions

➡ **Major forums:** active presence at the ERA Congress with an EKPF booth and speakers, and participation in multiple EU policy events and health conferences.

➡ **Active inclusion:** participation in WHO working groups and EU meetings, bringing the patient voice to discussions on chronic diseases and non-communicable disease prevention.

➡ **Visibility of lived experience:** involvement in European projects ensuring patient representation in research, sustainability and prevention initiatives.

Research in Kidney Diseases

Strengthen patient involvement in kidney research, ensuring that innovation reflects real patient needs and experiences

➡ **Participation in EU research projects:** active role in GeneTIGA or KitNewCare, and other Horizon Europe and EU4Health initiatives, leading communication and patient engagement.

➡ **Scientific collaboration:** contributions to multiple publications in leading journals such as Nature Reviews Nephrology and Clinical Kidney Journal, strengthening the patient perspective in science.

➡ **Patient voice in research:** partnerships with EUPATI, EKHA, and scientific societies to promote PROMs, PREMs, and patient training in research design and evaluation.

Strategic areas 2026-2028

This section summarises the progress made on the priorities defined in the previous EKPF Action Plan (2019–2024).

While several new initiatives and projects have since emerged, the achievements highlighted here reflect the objectives initially included in that plan. Some priorities have evolved or expanded, setting the foundations for the new 2026–2028 Strategic Plan.

Focus areas 2026–2028

Advocacy & Awareness

Increasing social awareness and policy recognition in Europe

Patient Empowerment & Education

Equipping patients with knowledge, tools, and autonomy to manage kidney health effectively.

Access to Treatment & Innovation

Ensuring fair and equitable access to all kidney replacement therapies (KRTs).

Prevention & Early Detection

Promoting early detection, diagnosis and lifestyle changes to reduce CKD incidence.

Mental Health & Quality of Life

Addressing psychological nd the broader social challenges kidney patients face.

Environmental Responsibility

Minimizing the environmental impact of kidney care and dialysis.



Advocacy & Awareness

Making kidney patients' voices heard where decisions are made

Increasing awareness and political recognition of kidney disease across Europe remains a fundamental goal of EKPF. Through advocacy, communication and public engagement, we aim to reduce stigma, promote prevention and early detection, and position kidney health as a key element in EU and national policies.
This focus area enhances visibility by fostering strategic campaigns, partnerships and policy dialogue with European and international institutions such as the European Parliament, European Commission and WHO.

By highlighting the link between kidney disease and other chronic conditions — such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity — EKPF promotes a holistic and preventive approach to health. Our advocacy empowers patients, informs the public and drives collective efforts to reduce the burden of CKD across Europe.



Actions ahead

Promote prevention & early detection through public campaigns

EKPF will participate in awareness days such as World Kidney Day or Rare Disease Day through digital campaigns on platforms like Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X and partnering with our member associations. These campaigns will raise awareness of kidney disease risk factors, share patient stories, and encourage screening and prevention, including online tools and multilingual resources.

Strengthen digital communication & visibility

EKPF will continue to enhance its social media presence and publish a bimonthly newsletter with updates on advocacy, EU projects and patient engagement. These tools will amplify our reach and help raise awareness about kidney-friendly habits, prevention and rights. A communication strategy will also prioritise visual storytelling, using short videos, infographics and interviews to bring patient experiences closer to the public.

Engage with EU policymakers to influence kidney health policy

EKPF will advocate for kidney health as a top priority within EU public health strategies, engaging policymakers through the European Kidney Forum, meetings at the EU Parliament, and collaboration with the WHO. We will continue to call for universal and equitable access to prevention, treatment and transplantation — including fair reimbursement policies and recognition of kidney disease as a major chronic condition in Europe

Empowerment & Education

Supporting patients to become informed, confident and engaged in their kidney care

Empowering kidney patients with the right knowledge, tools, and support is essential to improving their autonomy, health outcomes, and quality of life. EKPF is committed to promoting patient-centred care by ensuring that the voices and experiences of people with kidney disease are integrated into healthcare systems and decision-making processes.

This focus area supports educational outreach, co-designed workshops, and tailored programmes for both adult and young kidney patients. Through our member organisations, we foster knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning, helping patients become more engaged in their care journey and stronger advocates within their communities.



Actions ahead

Empower young patients through targeted programs

The KREW Camp – a one-week educational experience for teenage kidney patients – will continue to offer workshops on kidney-friendly living, self-management, and peer support. EKPF will work with its member organisations to explore ways of involving more patient groups and expanding the reach of the programme across Europe. The camp also contributes to strengthening the long-term engagement of young people in the kidney patient movement.

Promote patient involvement in kidney research and care design

EKPF will continue contributing to research projects and policy initiatives at the European level by joining international consortia and advocating for strong Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) practices. Through its member organisations, EKPF ensures that patient perspectives are embedded from the start, leading to more responsive care models and research that reflect the lived experience of people with kidney disease.

Strengthening European Kidney Patient Networks

Through initiatives such as IgAN Friends—a European network for patients with IgA Nephropathy—EKPF strengthens connections among kidney patient communities across Europe, with a special focus on rare diseases. EKPF also seeks to build partnerships with other chronic disease and kidney-related organisations to exchange practices, develop joint actions, and amplify the collective voice of patients.

Develop multilingual education tools and promote shared decision-making

EKPF will work with its member organisations to develop accessible, multilingual materials on kidney health, treatment options, and self-care. These tools aim to support patient autonomy and informed decisions across different European contexts. Insights gathered through Focus Groups and other participatory methods will ensure that content is shaped by real patient experiences, making health communication more relevant, inclusive, and empowering.

Prevention & Early Detection

Advocating for equitable, personalised, and future-ready kidney care across Europe

Ensuring equitable access to kidney replacement therapies (KRTs) is essential to improving health outcomes and quality of life for people living with CKD. EKPF advocates for a personalised and patient-centred approach to treatment—championing broader access, supporting innovation, and promoting informed decision-making.

This focus area highlights the need to expand treatment options, embed patient voices in care decisions, and remove barriers to organ donation and conservative management. It underscores the importance of partnership and advocacy in shaping a future where all kidney patients can access safe, timely, and appropriate care that aligns with their values and needs.



Actions ahead

Promote early detection through joint awareness campaigns

EKPF will collaborate with its member organisations, healthcare professionals, and chronic disease groups to design and promote awareness campaigns focused on CKD risk and early signs. These campaigns will highlight kidney-friendly behaviours and use patient testimonies to promote timely action and shared understanding. EKPF will also advocate for the inclusion of CKD screening in national prevention programmes

Engage primary care professionals across Europe

Recognising the critical role of primary care in early CKD detection, EKPF will explore ways to reach general practitioners and frontline professionals. Through partnerships and national pilots, we will seek to understand how to improve referral pathways, raise awareness of CKD symptoms, and embed kidney health messages into primary care practices.

Contribute to prevention-focused research and policy initiatives

EKPF will continue participating in European research consortia and projects aiming to delay CKD progression and improve prevention strategies. We will advocate for early detection and patient-reported outcomes to be prioritised in EU and national health agendas. This includes promoting Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in all stages of relevant initiatives.

Address rare and genetic kidney conditions

As part of its prevention efforts, EKPF will pay special attention to rare and inherited kidney diseases by supporting earlier diagnosis, family screening, and tailored information resources. We will join forces with disease-specific groups to share knowledge, advocate for specialised care, and ensure no patient is left behind in prevention strategies.

Access to treatment & Innovation

Promoting patient-informed innovation and treatment access across Europe

Improving access to high-quality and innovative treatments is key to enhancing the quality of life for people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD). EKPF promotes a patient-informed approach to treatment and innovation by advocating for expanded therapeutic options, support for home-based care, and better recognition of patient perspectives in decision-making.

This focus area highlights the importance of cross-border collaboration to reduce treatment disparities, especially in rare and underrepresented kidney conditions. EKPF also supports innovation in care models through patient-reported outcomes and engagement in research design, helping ensure that new therapies reflect both clinical evidence and real-world experiences.



Actions ahead

Advancing Research & Innovation

EKPF will collaborate with European research institutions to integrate AI and digital innovation into CKD diagnosis, follow-up and treatment planning. We advocate for rare and genetic kidney disease research, personalised medicine approaches, and increased EU funding for patient-driven innovation. Our participation in research projects ensures that patient perspectives are embedded in the development and evaluation of new therapies.

Expand access to diverse treatment options

EKPF will advocate for broader availability of home-based therapies and conservative management approaches, working with member organisations, healthcare providers, and national policymakers. These efforts aim to promote flexible treatment options that reflect patients' needs, priorities, and preferences, including their quality of life and lifestyle.

Improving Transplantation Systems

EKPF will continue to advance supportive policies for organ donation and living donors, promoting safe, ethical and accessible frameworks. Through initiatives such as the FAIR Project, EKPF will work to reduce social and legal barriers that affect living donors, while encouraging recognition of living donation as a vital part of European transplantation strategies. We will also address cultural, economic and systemic inequalities that limit access to transplantation across Europe.

Mental Health & Quality of Life

Putting mental health at the core of kidney care

Kidney patients often face emotional, psychological, and social challenges that impact their well-being and quality of life. EKPF recognises the importance of addressing these aspects as part of holistic, person-centred kidney care. While we cannot provide direct support services, we can help shape the conversation, elevate patient voices, and foster environments where mental health is seen as a fundamental component of care.

We aim to promote coping strategies that help patients find a more positive perspective on their condition, support conversations around often-overlooked topics—such as sexuality and emotional well-being—and highlight the value of peer support and community building. Knowing someone who shares your condition can foster a strong sense of belonging and empowerment, which in turn can positively impact quality of life.



Actions ahead

Strengthen patient-centred decision-making in KRT

EKPF will integrate emotional and mental health as a transversal theme across its projects and programmes—including important youth initiatives like the KREW Camp. This includes opening safe spaces for dialogue and promoting healthy coping strategies for patients of all ages.

Ensure the emotional dimension is represented in research and consultations

Through its involvement in EU projects and the organisation of focus groups and advisory boards, EKPF will highlight the psychological and emotional realities of kidney patients to ensure that diverse stakeholder audiences understand and address these needs.

Raise awareness through European campaigns

EKPF will join forces with relevant awareness initiatives to increase visibility of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in the context of kidney disease. Special attention will be given to issues like emotional wellbeing, sexual health, and the impact of long-term illness on self-esteem and relationships.

Environmental Responsibility in Kidney Care

Putting mental health at the core of kidney care

The European kidney community must play an active role in addressing the environmental impact of care delivery. EKPF supports a transition towards greener, more sustainable healthcare models, while ensuring that patient safety, access, and quality of life remain at the centre of all decisions.

Through its network, EKPF aims to raise awareness of the environmental footprint of treatments such as dialysis and transplantation, and advocate for systemic solutions that do not place the burden on patients. EKPF will continue participating in projects that promote sustainable innovation in kidney care and ensure that the patient voice is represented in conversations on climate-resilient health systems.



Participate in sustainable kidney care projects and consortia

EKPF will continue to take part in European research and innovation projects—such as KITNewCare—that aim to reduce the environmental impact of renal therapies. As a patient voice partner, EKPF will advocate for greener practices that do not compromise treatment quality or patient safety. We will also promote clear communication to ensure that patients understand the procedures and are reassured that environmental measures will not negatively affect their care.

Advocate for environmental sustainability in kidney health policies

EKPF will support the inclusion of sustainability goals in national and European kidney health strategies. This includes encouraging greener technologies, circular practices, and eco-conscious procurement. In this effort, EKPF will collaborate with key stakeholders—such as the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA)—and reinforce existing calls to action, including those aligned with the European Green Deal.

Raise awareness about the environmental footprint of kidney treatments

Through campaigns and patient engagement, EKPF will help shed light on the ecological burden of dialysis, transplantation, and other therapies. By informing patients, professionals, and policymakers, we aim to foster shared responsibility and drive change.

Network and collaborations

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of EKPF's mission. As a European federation, we act as a bridge between patients, professionals, industry, researchers, policymakers and institutions, creating spaces for dialogue and joint action.

Our network grows stronger each year — from member associations and patient groups to EU-funded projects, scientific societies and global organisations — all working together towards a common goal: improving the lives of kidney patients across Europe.

Partnerships, Collaboration & Network

The European Kidney Patients' Federation (EKPF) continues to strengthen its position as a key connector in the European kidney health ecosystem.

Collaboration is at the core of everything we do — it amplifies the patient voice, promotes alignment across disciplines, and transforms isolated actions into collective impact.

Building Key Alliances

Over the past years, EKPF has consolidated relationships with European and international institutions, as well as patient and professional organisations.

We actively collaborate with the European Commission, European Parliament and the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure kidney health remains visible in the broader health and sustainability agendas.

Beyond institutional advocacy, EKPF works with scientific societies, researchers and healthcare providers — including ERA, EKHA, ISN and EDTNA/ERCA — to integrate patient perspectives into research, policy and clinical education.

At the patient level, EKPF engages with federations such as EPF and EUPATI, and builds cross-disease cooperation with diabetes, liver and cardiovascular organisations to address common risk factors and promote early prevention.

Through these alliances, EKPF acts as a unifying bridge between institutions, professionals, patients and policymakers.

Sponsorship & Fundraising

EKPF maintains a responsible and transparent collaboration model with sponsors through its Premium, Official and Corporate Partnership Programmes.

These partnerships are not purely financial; they are designed to foster shared advocacy, awareness and education initiatives aligned with patient priorities.

Funds raised through sponsorship are directed to awareness campaigns, patient education activities, and research dissemination, ensuring tangible impact and visibility for both patients and partners.

EU Projects & Collaborative Platforms

EKPF's participation in European research and innovation consortia has become one of its strongest tools for visibility and influence.

Through these projects, we contribute to communication, dissemination and patient engagement, ensuring that kidney patients are represented in every phase of research and policy design.

Our involvement in EU-funded initiatives has also expanded EKPF's reach — each collaboration opens doors to new partners, strengthens our reputation as a reliable stakeholder, and amplifies our voice beyond our traditional network.

Being part of multiple consortia has turned EKPF into a reference point for patient inclusion in European health projects, connecting science, policy and lived experience.

Member Associations & Internal Collaboration

At the centre of our network are the EKPF member associations — the foundation of everything we do.

In recent years, EKPF has worked to make membership more accessible and inclusive, reducing annual fees thanks to a stronger financial structure and diversified funding sources. This decision reflects our belief that participation in a European federation should never depend on financial capacity, but on shared commitment and collaboration.

We will continue to support members with multilingual materials, communication resources and training opportunities, ensuring that language or geography are never barriers to engagement.

Most importantly, EKPF aims to foster direct connections between member associations — encouraging cooperation, knowledge exchange and joint advocacy actions that go beyond the Federation itself.

Because the strength of our network lies not only in its size, but in the relationships it inspires

Communication and dissemination

Visibility and communication are core to EKPF's impact. Through strategic outreach, we strengthen awareness, promote prevention, and connect the kidney community across Europe.

We continue to grow our online presence through LinkedIn, X, Instagram and Facebook, and to share updates via our bimonthly newsletter, bringing together news from members, EU projects, and advocacy initiatives. These tools allow us to reach broader audiences, promote dialogue around kidney health, and highlight the work of national associations.

From 2026 onwards, EKPF will coordinate the European Kidney Week, aligned with World Kidney Day, as the main awareness and prevention campaign of the year. This initiative will feature patient stories, prevention messages, and national activities from our member associations — showcasing kidney health as a shared European effort.

As part of our communication strategy, we will continue to participate in awareness days such as Rare Disease Day, PKD Awareness Month, and the European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation, using our network to deliver messages on early detection, prevention, and patient empowerment.

LinkedIN
EKPF - European Kidney Patients' Federation

Facebook
@EKPFceapir

X (Twitter)
@EKPFpatients

Instagram
@ekpf_oficial

EKPF News



EKPF participates in the European Kidney Forum 2025 at the European Parliament

Jan 29, 2025 | Meetings, News

EKPF participates in the European Kidney Forum 2025 at the European Parliament On January 28, EKPF attended the European Kidney Forum...

EKPF Newsletter





EKPF Brings the Patient Voice to ERA 2025 Congress

The EKPF was proud to attend the ERA 2025 Congress in Vienna, representing kidney patients from across Europe. During those days, we welcomed visitors at our booth, sharing our work projects, and advocacy initiatives.

As part of our involvement, EKPF President Daniel Gallego took part as a speaker in one of the most thought-provoking sessions of the event: "Pro & Cons: Organ Donation after Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia." Bringing the patient perspective to this complex ethical debate, Daniel highlighted the importance of dignity, informed choice, and trust in healthcare systems.

Read the news

Awareness days

World Kidney Day
13 MARCH 2025

RARE DISEASE DAY®

PKD AWARENESS DAY
SEPT 4

EUROPEAN DAY FOR ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

EKPF Manifesto

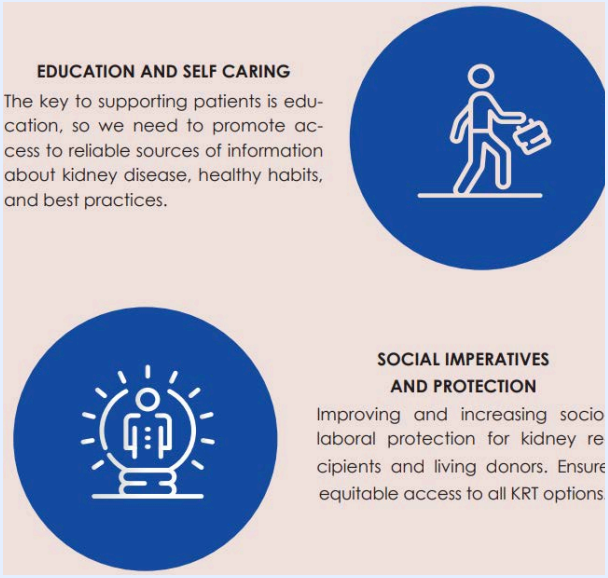
Our shared voice for kidney patients in Europe

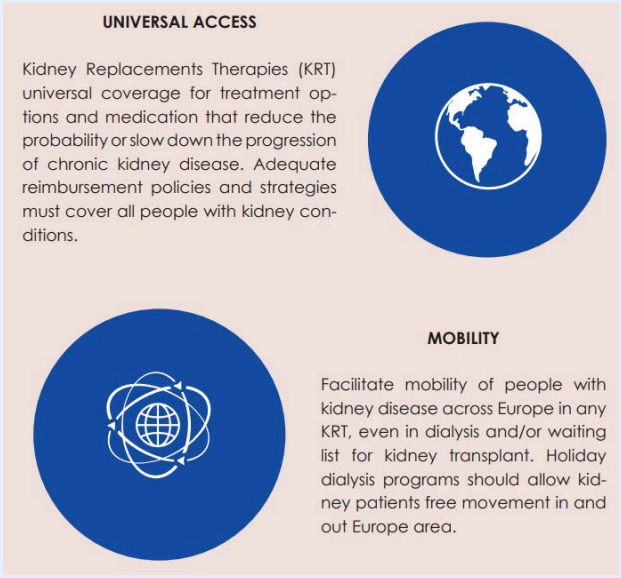
The EKPF Manifesto is the core advocacy document of the European Kidney Patients' Federation — a collective declaration of what we stand for and what we aim to change. It brings together the key claims, principles and priorities that guide our work in policy, awareness and collaboration across Europe.

More than a statement of intent, the Manifesto serves as a strategic framework for dialogue with policymakers, institutions, and partners. It outlines our core pillars — prevention and early detection, equitable access to treatment and transplantation, social inclusion, research participation, and patient empowerment — and translates them into clear, actionable messages for European kidney health policy.

The Manifesto is also EKPF's official reference document in external meetings and policy dialogues, used to introduce the Federation, its values, and its political position. It ensures that the perspectives and needs of kidney patients are expressed with one unified and credible voice.

Every year, the Manifesto is reviewed and ratified by the EKPF General Assembly, incorporating new research, patient feedback, and policy developments. This living process allows it to evolve over time — adapting to new challenges while staying anchored in the real experiences of kidney patients.





Uniting for kidney health: empowering lives, enhancing futures.

