

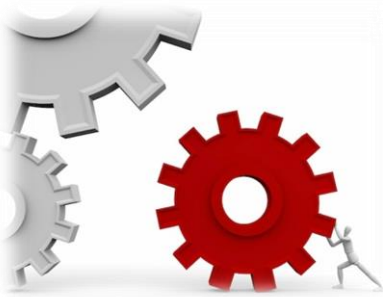


Equity of Access to Quality Healthcare

**CONSENSUS MEETING ON EQUITY
AND ACCESS FOR PATIENTS**

Stanimir Hasardzhiev
Chairperson, National Patients' Organization – Bulgaria

HOW DID IT START?



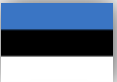
BULGARIA : healthcare challenges

- Among the lowest healthcare expenditure (% GDP)
- Healthcare problems
 - ✗ Low reimbursement level
 - ✗ High co-payment level
 - ✗ Administrative burden
 - ✗ Low access to innovative therapies
 - ✗ Low adherence to therapy
 - ✗ Underdeveloped health infrastructure
 - ✗ Migration of medical specialists



A COMMON CONCERN: HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- **A survey in 11 countries:** Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia
- Interviews with **13 leaders** of patients' organizations
- **4 questions**
- Via  / 
- **Non-scientific research** designed to gather patients' experience and impressions



SURVEY IN THE 'NEW' EU MEMBER STATES: KEY ISSUES

- Lack of equal and timely access to treatment
- Limited and unequal access to modern treatment
- Increased financial burden for patients
- Restricted access to relevant information
- Lack of life-long range of services and support for patients with chronic diseases
- Lack of thorough information on the possibilities for treatment abroad



THE ACTION: FIRST CONFERENCE ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN THE NEW EU MEMBER STATES

- Supported by the European Patients' Forum
 - Under the patronage of the Bulgarian Minister of Health
 - Dr. Andrey Kovatchev, MEP
-
- **162 DELEGATES**
 - Health ministers (Bulgaria, Croatia)
 - Policy-makers (Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia)
 - Patients' organizations
 - Official representatives of EU institutions
 - Members of European Parliament
-
- **OUTCOMES**
 - Resolution was adopted
 - Survey was conducted



THE FOLLOW-UP: SURVEY AMONG PATIENT LEADERS



Nearly 300 patient leaders took part in the study

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Cyprus, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, **Poland**, Croatia, Cyprus

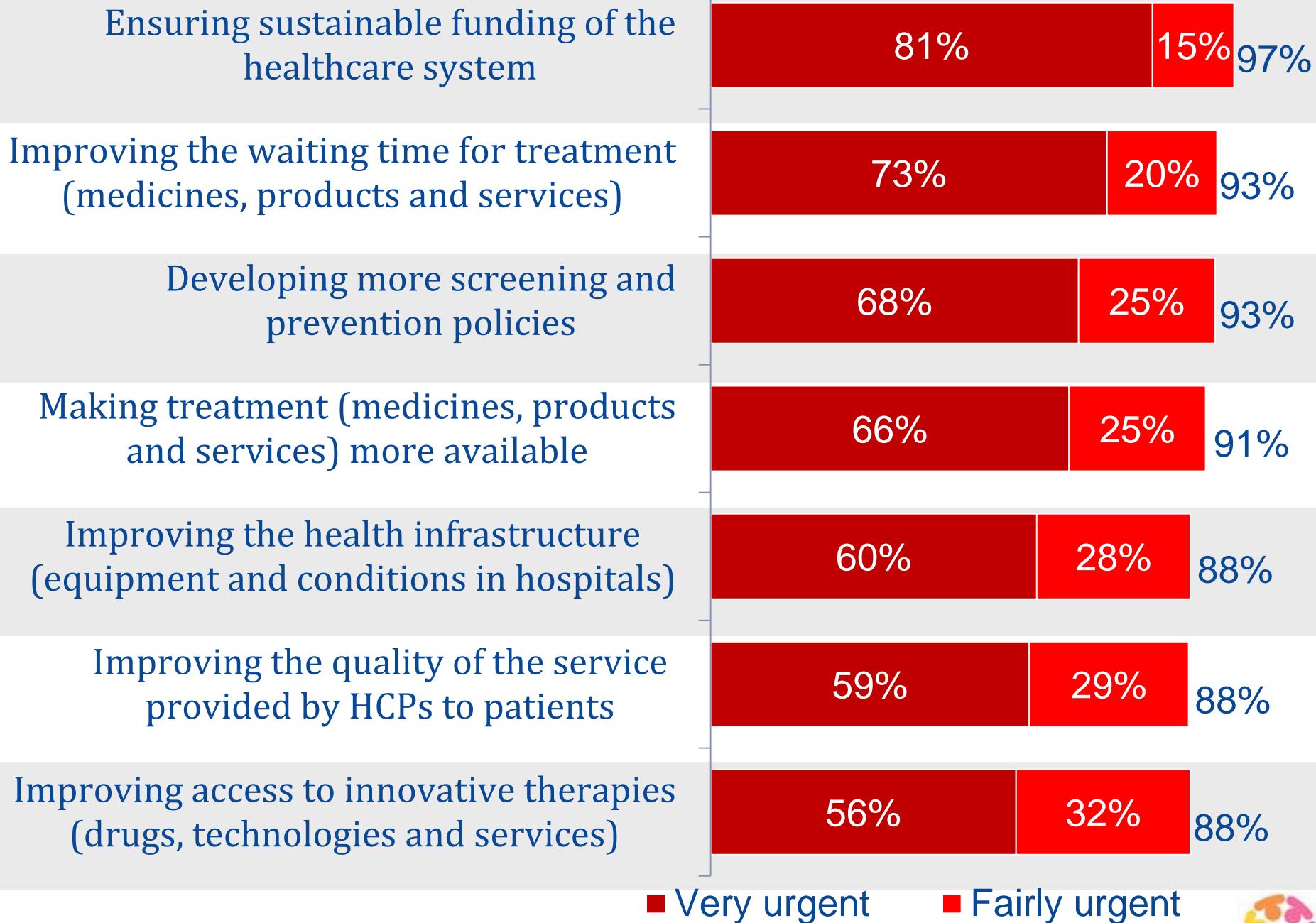
Inequalities in healthcare systems are being recorded, as well as good practices and opportunities for sharing experience

Results are presented at a policy meeting in the European Parliament on 26 June, 2013






There are a number of **access and quality issues that need to be addressed **urgently****



■ Very urgent

■ Fairly urgent





Patients and carers what to see **changes to
improve the healthcare situation in their country**

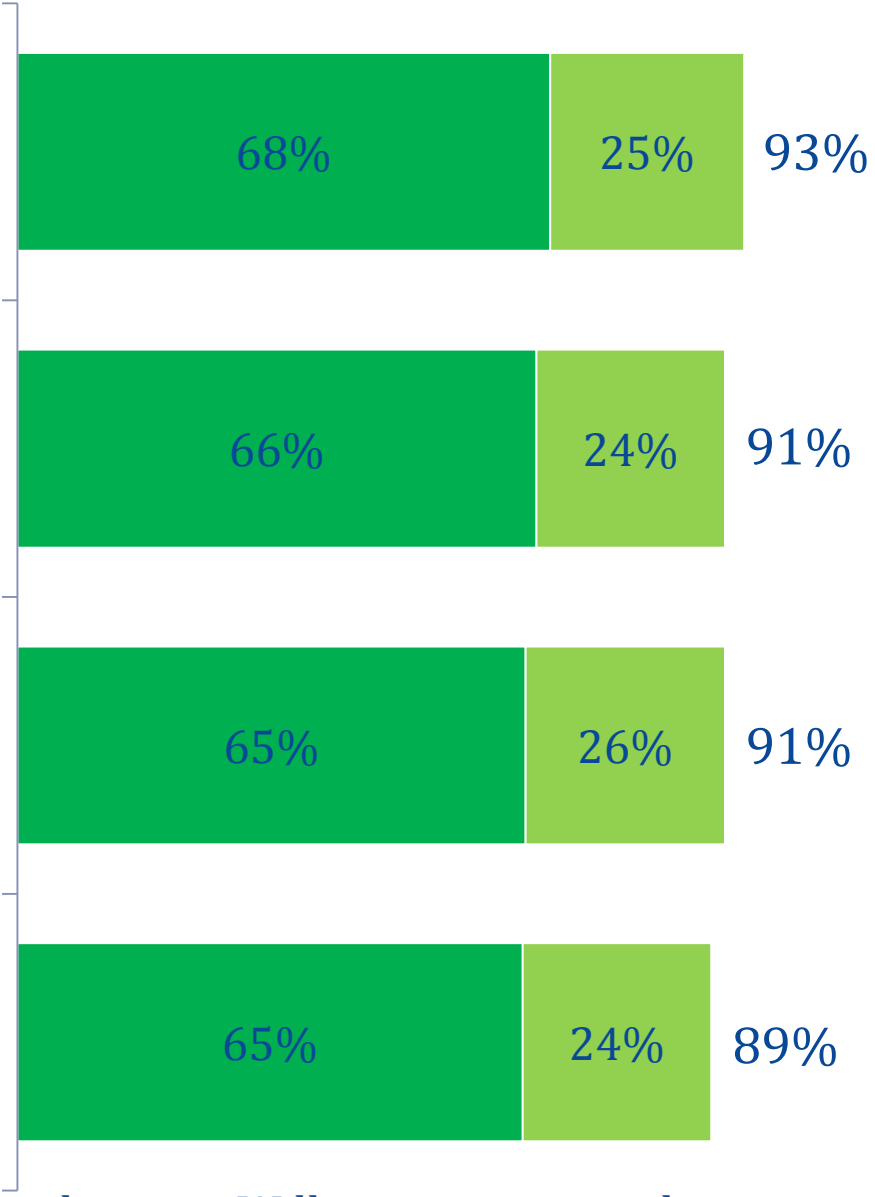


Introducing the right of patients to receive treatment abroad at the expense of the national health insurance funds provided that the treatment is unavailable in their country

Implementing affordable pricing of medicines which take into account the average income of your country

Specially tailored programmes to meet the specific needs of different patient groups (i.e. actions tailored to specific chronic diseases)

Additional EU funding for low-income countries to be allocated to health systems reform



■ Will improve significantly ■ Will improve somewhat



CONCLUSIONS

- The **economic crisis** has had an **impact on healthcare systems** and subsequently had an impact on the lives of patients
- **Access to healthcare** is one of the main **concerns**
 - Waiting times for products and services
 - Access to screening and prevention policies
 - Availability of products and services - at home and abroad
 - Access to good quality hospitals and HCPs
- **New and innovative approaches to increase access** and sustainability of the EU healthcare systems should be explored (*better collaboration, exchange of best practice, quality standards, sustainable pricing etc.*)

FURTHER STEPS: EU PARLIAMENT CONFERENCE

- Topic: Health Inequalities in the 'new' EU Member States. Equity of Access to Quality Healthcare. (June, 2013)
- Supported by Dr. Andrey Kovatchev MEP and EPF



- Results from the First Conference on Health Inequalities
- Results from the patients' survey
- Best practices from the EU
- The vision of the EU institutions on access to healthcare



INFORMAL DINNER: A NEED FOR ACTION

- **JUNE 25:** Stakeholders gather to discuss the issue of access to quality healthcare across Europe
- **ACTION NEEDED!**
 - Reduce health inequalities across Europe
 - Ensure equity of access to healthcare
 - Evaluate the impact and explore national and European solutions to the inequity of access



VILNIUS DECLARATION – CALL FOR ACTION

“Sustainable Health systems for Inclusive Growth in Europe”

- **The Vilnius Declaration - powerful document policy**

- **Purpose:** to ensure sustainable future healthcare systems



- **Call for Action**

- Ensure universal **access to high-quality, people-centred health services**
- **A partnership approach between all stakeholders** in the health sector at national and European levels should be promoted to identify effective solutions to improve equity of access to healthcare.



NEXT STEPS



STAKEHOLDER MEETING

- **Second Stakeholder Meeting (Brussels, Nov 27)**
 - **Topics:** the structure/ activities of a European Partnership on access
 - **Purpose:**
 - Solutions for everyone
 - Better access to quality healthcare



ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

- A **multistakeholder** approach
- **Structure:** Steering Committee, Secretariat, 3 Working Groups
 - **Non-governmental** (patient organizations, professional organizations)
 - **Industry** (pharmaceutical companies, companies for medical devices, hospitals)
 - **Policy-makers** (institutions)

THANK YOU!

