


Science Policy Interface:
Consumers/Patients Point of View

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www.efanet.org

 **The European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations - EFA -**

- A European network of patient organizations
- Founded in 1991 in Stockholm
- Initial aim: To combine efforts of national patient associations on asthma and allergy, to encourage positive change and be represented at European level


 **Facts about EFA** 

36 member organizations from 19 countries, in which over 400,000 individual members :

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

 **The role of Patient Organizations**

- Individual level: education, peer support, financial support
- Collective level: influencing policy of other organizations on care, work, air quality, food safety, tobacco control and consumer products and research to these

 **Policies**

- Healthy (indoor and outdoor) air in Europe
- Quality (including accessibility) of healthcare for people with allergies, asthma and COPD
- Societal participation of people with allergies, asthma and COPD
- Funding of demand-driven research on allergies, asthma and COPD

EFA Indoor Air Pollution in Schools Project

The Right to Breathe Healthy
Indoor Air in Schools

Indoor Air Pollution in Schools



EFA THADE Scientific Committee

M.A. Franchi : Thade project co-ordinator

P. Carrer, Department of Occupational Health, University of Milan, Italy; E.M.A.L. Rameckers, ER Health Consultancy, Slenaken, The Netherlands; O. Seppänen, REHVA and Helsinki University of Technology, Finland; G. Viegi, Pulmonary Environmental Epidemiology Unit, CNR Institute of Clinical Physiology, Pisa, Italy; J.E.M.H. van Bronswijk, Technische Universiteit, Eindhoven, The Netherlands; J. Bousquet, ARIA, Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma Initiative, France; C.F. Donner, General Secretary, European Respiratory Society, ERS; D. Kotzias, Commission of the E.U., Institute for Health and Consumer Protection; M. Maroni, Department of Occupational Health, University of Milan, Italy; J.E. Rosado Pinto, EAACI ; T. Popov, EAACI; J. Roca, European Respiratory Society, ERS; E. Valovirta, EFA; M. Wickman, EFA

EFA AIMS OF THE THADE PROJECT

- Produce maps of pollutants in European dwellings
- Review the data and evidence-based information related to exposure and to the health effects of air pollution in dwellings
- Review cost-effective measures and technology to improve air quality in dwellings
- Review legislation and guidelines on air pollution and air quality in dwellings
- Recommend an integrated strategy that defines appropriate indoor air

EFA Recommendations need actions

- Despite gaps in knowledge, there must be no delay in taking action. Actions based on scientific evidence and the reasoning that, by counteracting adverse health determinants, health is improved
- Action is needed on different levels, by different actors in different policy areas

EFA Aim of Health Policies

- European Union policy requires that all citizens be effectively protected to health risks from air pollution

EFA Universal Design

- The category of people with special needs should be discarded and the Young, the Old, the Pregnant, the Immuno-suppressed as well as Europeans suffering from chronic afflictions, such as asthma and COPD should be included in the natural variation of human populations

CHILD HEALTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT: RESULTS FROM EU
FRAMEWORK 5

*“I would like the air to be cleaner, to make
breathing easier, and I would like children with
asthma to grow up to have a future without the
problem of environmental pollution”*

Soledad Alonso Mostaza, Spain.



Thank you

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