

F3

**DATE & LOCATION**

14.45 - 17.15

Wednesday 4 October 2017

Kursaal C

## Nobody left behind

### Improving access to healthcare for underserved people

Addressing gaps in health equality is on the EU agenda. Indeed, there is a growing acknowledgment of the need to address health inequalities across different key groups.

In particular, discriminated, underserved, marginalised or vulnerable people (i.e. migrants, sex workers, LGBTs, people who inject drugs, prisoners, and the homeless) are at significantly higher risk of poor health and have a substantially greater risk of contracting infectious diseases. Yet at the same time, our healthcare systems are poorly designed to address their specific needs. As a result, they often experience severe inequities in access to care and poorer health outcomes. In short, the groups most in need of care are often the least likely to receive it.

Using a highly interactive format, this session will explore the harsh realities and multiple challenges faced by these key groups owing to the presence of multiple legal, political, economic, social and organisational barriers.

Starting at street level, community representatives and health policy experts will provide snapshots of the reality and challenges faced by these diverse groups to access healthcare. Our discussions will then move to an interactive workshop in which all participants will help identify needs, commonalities and potential policy responses to address these inequities. Finally, we will discuss the potential of an EU-wide policy response to improve equitable access to care and inclusion of underserved people in Europe.

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**GEORGE KALAMITSIS**

President of Prometheus, Hellenic Liver Patient Association, Greece

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**FREEK SPINNEWIJN**

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**ANDREJ KASTELIC**

Head of the National Centre for the Treatment of Drug Addiction, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**RACHEL HALFORD**

Deputy CEO, Hepatitis C Trust, UK

**JEFFREY LAZARUS**

Professor, International Health, Immunology & Microbiology Department, University of Copenhagen

Moderated by **DENIS ONYANGO**, Head of Programmes, African Advocacy Foundation and

**BORIS AZAÏS**, Director Public Policy, MSD Europe & Canada

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