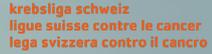


PRESS RELEASE

10 October 2018



The ECL Access to Medicines Task Force is launching the 'LET'S TALK ACCESS' White Paper today!

There have been significant advances in treatment of cancer in the past decades, however, equal access and affordability of innovative therapies remain a challenge. With aging population, rising cancer incidence, fast growing prices of cancer treatments and uncertain sustainability of healthcare budgets, issues with patients' access strike all over Europe, from East to West, from North to South. In LET'S TALK ACCESS White Paper, the ECL Access to Medicines Task Force elaborates on the most important challenges in access and suggest solutions for decision-makers.



Eveline Scheres
Chair, ECL Access to Medicines Task Force

'We mapped key challenges and drew solutions. **In order to improve the system, we need to be willing to change and step out of our comfort zones. It will take great amount of leadership and political capital to drive this change.** We are looking forward to explore the possibilities to build bridges between health NGOs, patient organisations, healthcare professionals, researchers, the industry and decision-makers, and ensure progress in equal access to high quality treatments together.'

'Patients all around Europe should be entitled to receive the best available treatment disregarding the country of origin. We need to ensure we are making smart investments in health and reimbursing high quality medicines improving survival as well as quality of life. **In the age of rising prices of cancer medicines, we have to think about both the current and the future generation of patients, ensuring sustainability of healthcare systems.'**



Nicolas Philippou
ECL Board Member

ECL Access to Medicines Task Force is releasing a White Paper on tackling challenges in access to medicines in Europe. LET'S TALK ACCESS questions the current policy and practice from four perspectives: i. disparities in availability of cancer treatments; ii. high prices of cancer medicines; iii. regulatory and systemic issues; and iv. flawed innovation models. The paper draws solutions for decision-makers and stakeholders on how to address key obstacles in patient access.



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[#LetsTalkAccess](https://twitter.com/letsTalkAccess)