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1. Foreword

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to address you in our first annual report and it is important to take stock of what progress has been made so far.
Thank you to everyone, especially our Members and Supporting Collaborators, who have supported us to achieve so much in the past 12 months.
After the first year in which we became a formal legal entity, I believe the organization is stronger, and our impact on diabetes is growing. We have many achievements to be proud of, some of which I will list below.
Over 2020, we continued to develop the EUDF as a professional organization. As part of this we hired our first employee and we further extended our membership. We diversified our board of directors with a broad range of skills, expertise and experience. Today, people with diabetes, clinicians, researchers and representatives from companies are member of the EUDF. I feel EUDF is now truly representing all stakeholders in the diabetes field.
In 2020, we were able to organize events and create a true forum for our members and supporting collaborators to discuss together how we can optimize the life of people with diabetes and guide policy makers. However, these were only the first steps, there’s a long way to go.

At the end of the year, we were able to set-up our 3 strategic forums, in which all our members and supporting collaborators are represented with experts. They will start working on our 3 strategic priorities in 2021:
• People with diabetes: Technology, digitalization and empowerment of self-care.
• Data and registries for diabetes.
• Diabetes and the healthcare system: primary care and integrated care.

Under the leadership of the 3 chairs, they will develop policy recommendations for engagement with policy makers at European and national level.
I want to thank, and extend my gratitude to, every Member of the Board as well as each and every Member of the Forum for all the efforts and activities undertaken and the achievements made to improve the lives of people with diabetes and those at risk.

Chantal Mathieu,
Chair EUDF

“Together we will speak with one strong voice to improve diabetes care”
2. Our vision & mission

The European Diabetes Forum aims to improve outcomes for people with diabetes, and unite stakeholders from across the diabetes landscape in Europe. This includes, policy makers, research, scientific societies, patient organizations, nurse associations, institutions connected to diabetes related co-morbidities, industry, governments, regulators, payers, and many more.

We provide the platform for these stakeholders to collaborate and to improve how we, as societies, manage diabetes and jointly advocate for policy change that enables our healthcare systems to cope with the diabetes pandemic. We support European and national stakeholders in driving a policy conversation, take concrete action to improve diabetes care, and provide a central point of contact for diabetes policy in Europe.

**OUR MISSION:**

*Ensure the translation of research into policy actions towards better diabetes care at national level.*

**OUR VISION:**

*Enable healthcare systems to cope with the diabetes pandemic, while achieving the best possible outcomes*
3. **Our strategy 2020-2023**

Our strategy sets out how we’re tackling the diabetes crisis. It provides focus for our work, to make sure we rise to the challenges we face.

2020 was the first year of our current strategy. We have set out our operational objectives to deliver a first stage over the next three years in collaboration with all relevant diabetes stakeholders.

With our 2020 to 2023 strategy, we made a commitment to working in three key areas. This report will take you through our 2020 journey, focusing on some of our biggest achievements and the work that has helped us meet our strategic aims.

1. **Recognize the relevance of diabetes on the public and policy agenda**

2. **Translate research into policy action**
   *three areas of policy focus have been identified*
   - People with diabetes: Technology, digitalization and empowerment of self-care
   - Data and registries for diabetes
   - Diabetes and the healthcare system: primary care and integrated care

3. **Establish EUDF as an organization with European and national impact**
4. Our key projects

1. Recognize the relevance of diabetes on the public and policy agenda

In line with the EUDF 3 year goal to establish a European Parliament working group on diabetes, EUDF engaged with our member association, IDF Europe, and our supporting collaborator, EFPIA in a discussion to support the launch of a specific diabetes MEP interest group ‘MEPs Mobilizing for Diabetes’.

Beyond the financial contribution to the project, EUDF coordinated their members and supporting collaborators input to the project. As relevant, the progress and initiatives with regard to the MEP Interest Group on Diabetes were discussed during the EUDF Diabetes Policy Network meetings.

EUDF, together with IDF Europe provided and will provide the MEP Interest Group with in-depth expertise on the latest developments and thinking on diabetes prevention, management and care.

**Structure & Governance:**
- A status update on the ‘MEP Interest Group on Diabetes’ was provided as a recurrent topic at the EUDF board meetings
- The progress and initiatives regarding the MEP Interest Group on Diabetes were discussed during the Diabetes Policy Network meetings. The purpose is to identify areas of alignment to be promoted through a united voice and to learn about specific/individual EU advocacy initiatives conducted by the members of the diabetes policy network
- A launch and policy event was hosted by IDF Europe. EUDF was invited to the introduction session, showcasing the support to the new initiative
- IDF Europe & the EUDF provided the MEP Interest Group with in-depth expertise on the latest developments and thinking on diabetes prevention, management, and care.
- Under the leadership of IDF Europe a strategic roadmap 2030 was developed. EUDF contributed to this thinking process to ensure the key priorities on technology,
digitalization and empowerment of self-care, data and registries for diabetes and diabetes and the healthcare system: primary care and integrated care are well represented so that progress can be made in the coming years to achieve ultimately better outcomes for people with diabetes.

2. Translate research into policy action

The EUDF wants to offer specific, achievable policy recommendations in three key areas:

- The use of health data to define, measure and achieve better outcomes;
- Empowering people with diabetes through digital technologies and innovative therapies; and
- Rethinking health systems to focus on primary and integrated care

Therefore, the EUDF established 3 Strategic Forums with experts to generate policy recommendations and ideas for implementation to allow discussions and engage on concrete projects with stakeholders and policy-makers both at EU and national level.

Our work will focus on 3 key areas with the aim to generate recommendations, policy papers, ideas for implementation and if feasible pilots for each of the 3 strategic forums to allow discussions and engage on concrete projects with stakeholders and policy-makers both at EU and national level.
Strategic Forum: Data & Registries

Many regions in Europe lack quality of care data and lack any detailed break-down of the crucial outcomes related to diabetes. Despite the 30-year interval since the St Vincent Declaration, and despite the major advances in the treatment options for all forms of diabetes (both with medications and technology), the overall quality of care and clinical outcomes remain sub-optimal. Lack of data on quality of diabetes care and outcomes in Europe is one of the most serious obstacles to progress. Moreover, there is the challenge of defining and agreeing what outcomes should be measured and ensuring that patient-related outcomes are included. Without current and accurate quality data and some level of benchmarking, it will be impossible to document progress. This is highlighted in the EUDF Call to Action, where it states that one key solution is to “align on the ambition to improve outcomes, by measuring and registering outcomes”.

The initial “Objectives & Directions for Solutions” were discussed and will be further finetuned and discussed in the work of the Strategic Forum meetings in 2021.

Align on the ambition to improve outcomes, by measuring and registering outcomes

- Facilitate an aligned understanding between the EUDF stakeholders on the need to base the future of diabetes management on measurable outcomes
- Set European and national specific and numerical targets for improving diabetes related outcomes, including mortality
- Set a specific focus on the prevention of long-term cardiovascular outcomes of diabetes
- Facilitate the introduction of standard outcome sets and registries across Europe
- Increase the overall focus on value-based healthcare
- Prepare recommendations on the establishment of data gathering and registries at a European level and provide guidance for regional/national translation
Strategic Forum: Self-care, Technology & Digitalization

Medical technology for diabetes has advanced rapidly. The gap between guidelines and clinical reality is striking when viewed in the light of the pace of advances in technology. There is a mismatch between the expressed needs and wishes of people with diabetes (and their caregivers) and both the manufacturers of medical devices and the regulatory agencies. People with diabetes have been turning to new ways to find the support they need for self-care, outside the traditional clinical care systems. They are increasingly designing their own innovative solutions, particularly in the area of artificial pancreas closed-loop systems. The EUDF has been in dialogue with the various stakeholders in the diabetes technology field (people with diabetes, basic and clinical researchers, clinicians, software experts, Med Tech Europe).

The initial “Objectives & Directions for Solutions” were discussed and will be further finetuned and discussed in the work of the Strategic Forum meetings in 2021.

Continuously improve and innovate diabetes care, driven by policy action

- Open the dialogue on diabetes technology between the people with diabetes, manufacturers and regulators
- Optimize the use of technology, digital health and innovative treatments to support self-care by people with diabetes, to prevent complications and support quality of life
- Foster the introduction of innovative approaches and broader evidence for diabetes care into policy, and policy into action
- Guide the relevant funding agencies on the focus and priorities for research
- Prepare recommendations for the optimal use of technology & digital health to support self-care and provide guidance for regional/national translation
Strategic Forum: Integrated Care

Ninety percent of diabetes care in Europe occurs in primary care. Pandemic diabetes creates a quantitative stress on the time and resources of primary care teams. The complexity of treatment options combined with patient complexity (ageing population, multi-morbidity) further stress the systems. The trend is unsustainable in the medium to long term. Healthcare systems are not set up to manage chronic, complex and growing diseases such as diabetes. The settings and systems for primary care vary greatly throughout Europe as well as within countries and regions. The care of people with diabetes is hindered by fragmented management. A lack of long-term focus and a silo system of care contribute to an overall poor patient experience, poor adherence, poor compliance and sub-optimal outcomes.

The initial “Objectives & Directions for Solutions” were discussed and will be further finetuned and discussed in the work of the Strategic Forum meetings in 2021.

Enlighten the way for integrated care and sustainable financing of diabetes in the future

- Share and implement best practices regarding integrated care solutions
- Align incentives in the HC system to be matched to longer-term outcomes for PwD
- Support frontline diabetes care with up to date and clinically translatable postgraduate education and continued professional development
- Support decision-making in primary care, including ‘live’ support regarding guidelines
- Facilitate communication between primary care, secondary care and the different specialty groups within secondary care
- Prepare policy recommendations on integration of care at a European level and provide guidance for regional/national translations
3. Establish EUDF as an organization with European and national impact

In 2020, important progress was made to contribute to our 3 year ambition to build a strong coalition on diabetes, including all relevant stakeholders.

Importance steps were made to further professionalize the association.

- EUDF became a formal legal entity on February 19
- A strategic plan 2020-2023 was discussed and agreed
- A workplan for 2020 with key milestones was initiated
- A first employee was recruited as Executive Director on August 17
- Several new members and board members are recruited (see 6. Partnerships)
- An executive Forum was set-up with the senior management of the industry supporting collaborators to exchange on the ambition and priorities of the EUDF
- Several General Assembly meetings were organized
- 3 Strategy Forums were initiated including representatives of science, industry, patient organizations, healthcare professionals, co-morbidity areas
- EUDF engaged with members and partners to ensure EUDF was represented in the main relevant conferences
- External communication and policy outreach was initiated to facilitate the external recognition as the European platform for a united diabetes voice
- There were regular contacts with the existing national diabetes forums and a Memorandum of Understanding and Framework to facilitate the establishment of additional national forums was prepared.
“In 2020, important progress was made to contribute to our 3 year ambition to build a strong coalition on diabetes, including all relevant stakeholders.”
5. Our external presence - uniting stakeholders from across the diabetes landscape

EUDF’s participation to Webinars & Symposiums

Webinar hosted by EFPIA & EUDF - 11 June 2020
Diabetes and COVID-19: when two pandemics meet - Rethinking health systems: integrated care and empowerment of primary care
While COVID-19 is particularly challenging for at-risk groups like people living with diabetes, it has accelerated integration of care and uptake of digital health. In this virtual event, experts explored what we have learned from the current crisis and how we might improve diabetes care in future as a result.

Key highlights:
• MEP Sara Cerdas (S&D, PT), stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted the healthcare pathways of people living with diabetes. She said that the EU had already started to learn its lessons from the pandemic by committing itself to a new ambitious and stand-alone EU Health program. She insisted on the importance of telemedicine, primary healthcare, prevention and called on the EU to reduce health inequalities.
• Bastian Hauck, International Diabetes federation (IDF) Europe, CEO, Dedoc Labs GmbH, highlighted that access, mental health and continuity of care were the main challenges faced by living with diabetes during the pandemic.
• Chantal Mathieu, President, European Diabetes Forum (EUDF), argued that rigorous scientific studies based on robust data and good communication were key to avoid creating fears among patients.
• Francesc Xavier Cos Claramunt, Chairman Primary Care Diabetes Europe, stated that integrated healthcare systems would allow to better identify the populations that are most at risk and tailor the medical follow-up to patient needs.
• Maurizio Guidi, Co-Chair of the EFPIA Diabetes Platform, External Engagement Leader Lilly Diabetes, recalled that the focus on diabetes care was more important than ever and
that data collection, digital health and integrated care were the three pillars to improved patient outcomes. He argued that budget silos cannot lead to an optimal management of diabetes.

**Webinar hosted by EFPIA - 18 September 2020**

*Understand diabetes, rethink diabetes, share solutions - Are we doing the best we can for the 60 million Europeans living with diabetes?*

Diabetes is Europe’s silent health pandemic, but is the diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes getting the focus it deserves? Patients endure the relentless task of managing their disease, acutely aware that it develops and changes over time, with connected diseases emerging possibly later in life, such as amputations, heart attacks or strokes.

At the same time, health systems are not currently set up to prioritize chronic conditions and improve outcomes for people living with diabetes. It is time to rethink how diabetes care is delivered.

**EUDF Symposium - 23 September 2020**

*Digital Health: Hope for diabetes in an uncertain and challenging world?*

What role can digital technologies play in improving the quality of care for people with diabetes? How can European and national decision makers enable better care for people with diabetes through digital health? What are some of the hurdles that stand in the way of exploiting the full potential of digital health solutions? These were a few of the major questions up for discussion at the EUDF Symposium, which was held as part of the virtual EASD Annual Meeting on 23 September, 2020.

As the Chair of the EUDF Chantal Mathieu explained, the European Diabetes Forum’s dual vision is to help European healthcare systems manage the diabetes epidemic, while achieving the best possible outcomes for people with diabetes. Digital health is an important part of the solution for both of these mandates. The benefits of digitalization for diabetes resides both in the promise that it will improve the outcomes and management of care, and also that it will help people with diabetes lead a better quality of life.

Overview of policy recommendations
1. Validate the experience of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Transform the pilot projects into ordinary care solutions with adequate financial support for HCPs
3. Engage people with diabetes at the forefront of policymaking and service development
4. The European Commission should develop a policy framework promoting outcomes-based healthcare and actively encourage Member States to embrace outcomes-based diabetes care
5. The European Commission, in collaboration with Member States, should promote clear and sustainable funding & reimbursement pathways for innovative treatments and digital health
6. Call to standardize tools with interoperative platforms for glucose data, pens, pumps and additional information (nutrition, activity...) for optimal follow-up
7. Move to fully integrate all databases in order to obtain a fully integrated system for robust patient follow-up and stratification of high-risk patients who need most attention
8. Create more integrated electronic health records and access to data at all times
9. Work to make digital tools, solutions and remote access to electronic health records also available to all health care professionals, including diabetes specialist nurses
10. Engage with the European institutions to consult and partner with the EUDF and members and supporting collaborators to contribute together to better health for people with diabetes

**Webinar hosted by IDF Europe - 17 November 2020**

**How to built a better future for diabetes nurses in Europe?**

Every year, World Diabetes Day (WDD) is a great occasion to raise awareness of the escalating health threat posed by diabetes at the European, national, and local level. Diabetes remains a huge and ever-increasing challenge in Europe. We need integrated care for better health services for European citizens. Diabetes needs to be higher up on the political agenda and diabetes nurses deserve greater recognition in Europe.
IDF Europe organized its first virtual symposium hosted by MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen and MEP Christel Schaldemose. The first session consisted of a case study on the situation of diabetes nurses in Germany, presented by Dr. Gottlobe Fabisch, Director, Verband der Diabetes-Beratungs- und Schulungsberufe in Deutschland e.V. (VDBD). The second session, chaired by Ms. Anne-Marie Felton, President, Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) and Professor Nebojsa Lalic, Vice-Chair of IDF Europe presented the highlights of the FEND survey on The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Diabetes Specialist Nurses in Europe and of the IDF Europe Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on people with diabetes. Results of the surveys were shared by Dr. Rita Rita Forde, FEND Research Fellow, King’s College London, and Ms. Sabine Dupont, IDF Europe Senior Consultant, Policy and Projects. The re-establishment of the MEP Interest Group on Diabetes, MEPs Mobilising for Diabetes (MMD), was also announced. It will be launched officially in January on the first day of the Centenary of Insulin campaign.

Webinar hosted by EFPIA - 20 November 2020
From silo budgeting to financial integration: Where does the EU stand in diabetes care?
Lessons learned from an EFPIA/The Economist Intelligence Unit study
Integrated diabetes systems, comprising horizontal and vertical integration, present an opportunity to reduce the fragmentation of care, ultimately increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of diabetes services. The following calls to action are based on a scorecard benchmarking the level of service, IT and financial integration in 28 European countries, plus discussions with experts in diabetes management and integrated services.

These are the policy priorities for achieving effective and efficient integrated diabetes systems:

- Engage people with diabetes to put them at the center of integrated diabetes services
- Align or pool budgets to enable clinical integration, reduce fragmentation and deliver patient centered care
- Establish evaluation mechanisms to facilitate continuous monitoring and improvement of integrated diabetes systems
Social media

Coordinated by the Executive Director, the social media presence of the organization further grew with the valuable input of the EASD communications team who supported the implementation of successful social media engagement efforts, related to our external activities.

In preparation of our symposium and webinars, the communication and promotion of the programs played a huge role in the increase of our social media presence. We increased the volume of social media activities due to the approaching symposia and growing membership, this resulted in a social media growth.
Website

We updated the EUDF website and included several videos and publications after the events. At the end of the year, we decided to create a new website. In 2021, the new website will be launched with a more modern look and feel, in line with the visual identity of our organization. We will develop a structure that will allow the EUDF team to update it independently from IT providers and web designer in most cases, which will increase in-house control of the tool and will contribute to the reduction of any service fees. The flexibility of the homepage will allow for more timely news updates and space to showcase news from partner stakeholders.

Communication Channels

- http://eudf.org
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjcGabHE4mX3IOcc3sPrR5Q
- https://twitter.com/EUDiabetesForum
- https://www.linkedin.com/in/bart-torbeyns-abbb494/
6. Partners in our vision

The European Diabetes Forum (EUDF), founded by the European Association for the study of Diabetes (EASD), the European Foundation for the Study of diabetes (EFSD), the Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) has been created to bring together multiple stakeholders from across the diabetes landscape in Europe.

The EUDF has 6 pharma companies as supporting collaborators, they joined EUDF under the umbrella of the EFPIA diabetes platform.

In 2020, the EUDF was further expanded with Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE), SFD (Société Francophone du Diabète) and the International Diabetes Federation Europe (IDF Europe) who joined the association.

- **EUDF MEMBERS EVOLUTION IN 2020**
It’s important to highlight that all partners, including the industry partners, are at all moments at the table to discuss the governance, ambition, strategy and the workplan.

“2020 was the year of our membership expansion, we feel all major diabetes stakeholders are now represented in EUDF”

MEMBERS & SUPPORTING COLLABORATORS

Members

Supporting Collaborators
7. Get involved

We invite all stakeholders in the European diabetes landscape to join the European Diabetes Forum (EUDF). Together we will speak with one strong voice to improve diabetes care and make policy makers aware of the urgent and problematic diabetes situation in Europe.

The EUDF is a forum for discussion with all relevant diabetes stakeholders, and for partnership together to achieve explicitly agreed outcomes. Much can be accomplished with a united voice and concerted action.

There is no single way we will achieve our vision to enable healthcare systems to cope with the diabetes pandemic, while achieving the best possible outcomes. And there is no way we can achieve our mission alone. Here are the ways you can be part of our journey ...

Full and Associate Membership for non-profit legal entities

As a Full or Associate Member you will have unparalleled access to EUDF and its community of patients, payers, policy makers, industry supporting collaborators, clinicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. The collaboration allows Full and Associate Members to engage in discussion on collaborative projects, and enables Members, with a united voice, to influence the diabetes policies in Europe.
Partnership with Supporting Collaborators

As a Supportive Collaborator you will have unparalleled access to EUDF and its community of patients, payers, policy makers, clinicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. The collaboration allows companies to engage in discussion on collaborative projects, and enables companies, with a united voice, to influence the diabetes policies in Europe.

For more information on Full and Associate Membership for non-profit legal entities or our partnership with Supporting Collaborators contact info@eudf.org.
8. How we’re run

How we’re organized and governed

EUDF was co-founded in 2019 by the EASD, EFSD, FEND and JDRF. EUDF is an international non-profit association and is constituted for an indefinite period under the provisions of Book 10 and any other provisions applicable to international non-profit associations of the companies and associations Code of March 23, 2019.

Our Board of Directors

Our Board has collective responsibility for everything we do and is responsible for:
• our overall strategic direction, including evaluating progress against our strategic plans
• ensuring our financial stability
• acting in the best interests of our organization
• ensuring that we comply with our governing documents, and any other relevant legislation

We currently have 6 board members (the maximum permitted under our Articles of Association is 10) with a broad range of skills, expertise and experience. Some are living
with diabetes or caring for someone with diabetes, and some are healthcare professionals. All of our board members support and work with us on a voluntary basis. The term of office of the members of the Board shall be two years, renewable twice.

**EUDF BOARD MEMBERS EVOLUTION IN 2020**

Several new Board members were elected in 2020 to serve EUDF. We welcomed three new Board Members, Jeannette Soderberg (JDRF), Bastian Hauck (IDF Europe) and Charles Thivolet (SFD).
Board meetings
The Board met six times in 2020.

The 2020 Board Meetings took place as follows:
Board Meeting 1—26 March
Board Meeting 2—6 May
Board Meeting 3—25 June
Board Meeting 4—10 August
Board Meeting 5—27 August
Board Meeting 6—4 November

There were 2 written procedure:
Written Procedure 1—15 October
Written Procedure 2—30 November

Strategy Forums
The Board may establish and delegate tasks to the Strategy Forums. The Strategy Forums shall have a supporting role to the Board on specific issues and can form the policy of the Association when requested by the Board. The Board shall determine amongst others the appointment, reappointment, discharge, mission, composition, powers, terms of office, conduct of meetings and governance, convening modalities and drafting of agendas, presence quorums, voting majorities, and voting procedures, and drafting of minutes of the Strategy Forum.
The Strategy Forum shall always act under the responsibility of the Board and shall report periodically to the Board on its activities, and/or at the request of the Board and at least annually.
At the end of 2020, three strategic forums were established:
• Strategic Forum Data & Registries
• Strategic Forum Integrated Care
• Strategic Forum Self-care, Technology & Digitalization
How we organize our work
The Board delegates responsibility for operational management to our Executive Director.