

# Case study

## The Romanian Diabetes Forum



### Setting up the Diabetes Working Group

Following the EFPIA model, in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2018, the Diabetes ad-hoc Working Group was set up within ARPIM - The Romanian Association of International Medicine Manufacturers. It was the first time when a group of companies covering a single therapeutical area was meeting with a common agenda. This group was later approved by the General Assembly Meeting.

The Diabetes WG will have 2 main objectives (that remain to this day):

- Disease education & awareness (increase level of knowledge and understanding of diabetes in Romania at all decision-making levels, and within public opinion to improve outcomes)
- Policy shaping (proactively position Diabetes WG as main partner for the authorities and contribute with expertise and input to new legislation)

The WG agreed on the need to align the projects with EFPIA initiatives and actions and select the ones which can be cascaded down to Romania. Also, it was agreed to request the professional support from a supplier; each company participates financially in the project (project management capabilities, Public Affairs expertise, Healthcare stakeholders strong knowledge).

### First steps towards the collaboration framework of the Romanian Diabetes Forum

One of the 1<sup>st</sup> collaborations initiated was with the Romanian Diabetes Society. On 14 of November 2018, a collaboration protocol was signed accompanied by a call to action for stakeholders in the field of diabetes. The initiative was officially announced in the same day to the press. Following the signing of this collaboration protocol and the launch of the call to action, the members of the working group contacted and engaged key stakeholders with the objective of integrating them as part of this platform.



### Launching of the Romanian Diabetes Forum

With this objective in mind, on the 9 of April 2019, The Romanian Diabetes Forum was officially launched at the Romanian Parliament (Healthcare Committee Hall from the Chamber of Deputies) in a conference that reunited stakeholders in the field of prevention, diagnosis and integrated management of the patient with diabetes: authorities, patient associations & medical societies. Taken into consideration the fact that another objective of the working group was to raise awareness on diabetes, the press was invited to the

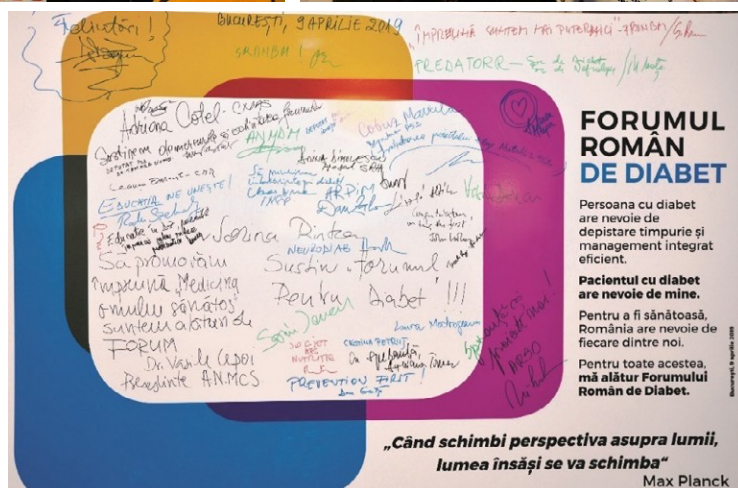
event. The keynote speaker of the event was Prof. John Nolan, Executive Director of The European Diabetes Forum. The event was also attended by one of the Co-chairs from EFPIA diabetes group and a secretariat representative.

All actors rallied as members of The Romanian Diabetes Forum, each with an unique contribution to the project: 10 medical societies, 2

professional colleges (doctors and pharmacists), patients' associations and authorities.

After we laid the foundation of the Forum, our focus will was on three main directions:

- Continue to engage members of the Forum in common activities
- Implement a communication campaign to raise awareness on diabetes
- Have an active contribution to policy shaping on prevention regarding diabetes



## Consolidation of the Romanian Diabetes Forum

In September 2019, the collaboration framework of the Forum was extended by signing a Memorandum of cooperation between the Diabetes Working Group and 10 patients' associations. Also, the collaboration protocol with the Romanian Society of Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic

Diseases was renewed and The Romanian Federation of Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases joined our efforts on November 14, 2019 (a similar collaboration protocol was signed).

Later that month, the first general meeting of members of the Forum took place.



## Way of working

The Diabetes working group meets once a month and is the forum in which decisions are made regarding ongoing projects. The strategy and budget proposed by the agency are approved once a year. Members also have status or working meetings with other partners from the Forum in addition to the General Assembly Annual meeting and The Romanian Diabetes Forum conference – an event that also reunites representatives of public institutions and other stakeholders.



# Connection with European projects

- April 9, 2019 / EFPIA and EUDF participate in the launch of the platform in Romania
- September 19, 2019 / participation in the symposium of the European Diabetes Forum
- September 23, 2020 / The Romanian Diabetes Forum participates in the Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in the symposium organized by the European Diabetes Forum and is among the three countries invited to share their experience, along with France and Germany.
- November 20, 2020 / Debate with experts from the EU institutions, academic environment, and industry on the implementation of integrated diabetes systems in Europe
- February 2021/ Updates from the Romanian Diabetes Forum at the EFPIA Steering Committee

