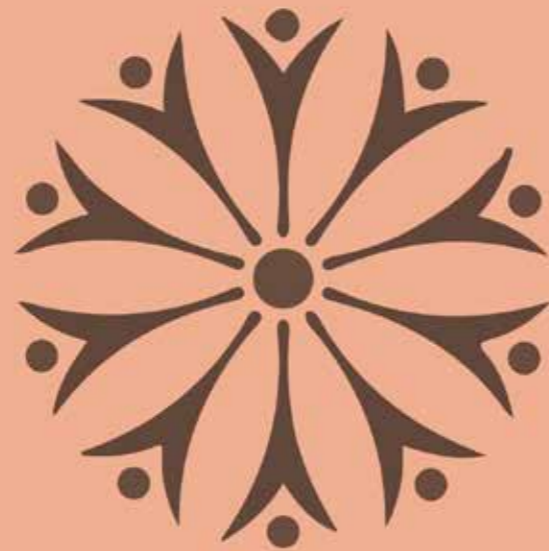


# OBJECTIVE 02

To promote human rights and democracy, involving citizens in policy dialogue, design and monitoring

# INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS' PLATFORM

## HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS' PLATFORM



SAĞLIK DERNEKLERİ PLATFORMU  
HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS' PLATFORM



### THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Creation of a logo for the Health Associations' Platform.

Visits to the head of "the administrative, public and health affairs committee" and the head of the "parliament" to present recommendations on the draft legal text on patients' rights in October 2017.

Design and printing of visibility materials (e.g. poster, folder) to increase the visibility of the Health Associations' Platform.

### ABOUT THE HEALTH ASSOCIATION'S PLATFORM

The Platform was established in 2016. It consists of ten civil society organizations that fight to protect the health rights of people affected by different diseases, improve the quality of life of patients and their families and give patients a stronger voice during the formation of healthcare policy.

### STORY OF THE ACTION

The Health Associations' Platform was formed as an initiative of the Universal Patients' Rights Association to strengthen their voices in collaborative actions. The foundation members are: Help Those with Cancer Association, Thalassemia Association, Cyprus Turkish Heart Foundation, Cyprus Turkish Multiple Sclerosis Association, Cyprus Turkish Orthopedic Disabled Association, Dialysis and Kidney Patients Solidarity Association, Universal Patients' Rights Association, Cyprus Foundation for Hearing and Speech Impairment, Cyprus Turkish Orthopedics Association, Life with Coeliac Disease Association.



Photo Credit: Health Associations' Platform

The aim of the Grow Civic action was to develop an institutional identity for the Platform and increase public understanding of patients' rights through advocacy work. In October 2017, the Platform made official visits to the head of the "parliament" Dr. Sibel Siber, and the head of "the administrative, public and health affairs committee", Dr. Ahmet Kaşif, to present their recommendations on the draft legal text on patients' rights. On Patients' Rights Day, on 26 October 2017, an advertisement for the draft legal text on patients' rights was published in the three most widely read newspapers. Also, visibility materials for the Platform, such as a logo, poster, and folder were created to effectively reach a wider audience. The action, both in terms of advocacy and visibility, enabled the Platform and their policy demands to become more accessible.

*"The action enabled us to be heard by the duty bearers and increased our visibility within civil society. Another health association became a member of the Platform after our visit to the "parliament". We believe that the members of the Platform as well as all the individuals whose patients' rights have been violated benefited from this action. It definitely helped us develop our "identity" as a platform and strengthen the bond between members"*

Emete İmge

The Platform highlighted the importance of cooperation and solidarity in advocacy efforts and the positive reaction of duty bearers towards a strong, collective voice.

### RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

CSOs working in the health field that have been actively advocating to improve the health system decided to form a Platform to strengthen their voices and use the power of collaboration. They aimed not only to be an active voice in the decision-making processes in health policies but also to learn best practices from the Platform's members. In the scope of the action, they had several face-to-face meetings with the duty bearers, actively used media and social media to promote rights-based health issues and activities, and became a role model of solidarity in the health sector.

*"We wanted to advocate for the rights of our patients from the duty bearers in the health sector and put pressure on them to be more active in the decision-making processes in health policies."*

Emete İmge



Photo Credit: Health Associations' Platform

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The Platform is continuing to advocate for patients' rights and lobby the duty bearers to approve the legal text on patients' rights. The Platform prepared a manifesto on improving public health services and protecting patients' and disability rights in 2018. They widely distributed it by visiting every candidate in the local elections, paving the way for patients to advocate for their own rights. Their continued work aims for each patient to access the highest attainable standard of health.

TO FIND  
MORE ABOUT  
THE ACTION

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