

PRESS RELEASE

Bratislava, November 11, 2016

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear partners,

We are very pleased to inform you that the international project ***Together for Better Health***, in which we cooperate with our domestic and foreign partners, became the overall winner of Health Collaborations Award 2016 on November 9, 2016 in Brussels.

The international Together for Better Health project is implemented in four countries - Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia, and is carried out through activities of Roma Health Mediators. There are four key organizations implementing the project, including OvidiuRO (Romania), National Network of Health Mediators (Bulgaria), Partners Hungary Foundation (Hungary), Association for Culture, Education and Communication (Slovakia), with support of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA – Brussels), Platform for Support of Health of Disadvantaged Groups (Slovakia), and Healthy Communities NPO, under the GlaxoSmithKline community partnership program.

The award was established by EFPIA (the European association of Innovative Pharmaceutical industry) and the Patient Think Tank (including the European Patient Forum). The Purpose of the Award is to share the best practices in multi-stakeholder collaborations that benefit patients and healthcare systems.

The Jury was very impressed with collaboration between the key organizations and the intensity of this cooperation (i.e., videoconference 3 times a year, annual field visits in one of the partner countries, joint development of awareness-raising activities) and especially the amount of field work that we do with the involvement of people from the Roma communities. Through this project, we have the opportunity to share our experiences and at the same time we can take inspiration from examples of good practice from abroad.

The organizers of the event justified selection of the winner as follows: "*Winner of the Health Collaboration Award 2016 - project Together for Better Health - received the award for targeted solutions to the needs of Roma communities in the area of health across the whole of Eastern Europe.*" Andrew Powrie-Smith, Director of Communications and organizer of the health collaboration summit, presented the award to Paul van Hoof saying: "*Please pass on my congratulations to colleagues at GSK and the project partners. It is a truly an inspiring project [...]*".

We would also want to congratulate all partners and we are glad that we were able to contribute to this success. Special thanks go to the Roma Health Mediators who perform the hard work in the field.

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