

European Fertility Week Campaign Shines A Light On The 25 Million Europeans Affected By (In)Fertility Issues

25 million European citizens are currently dealing with (in)fertility issues. This year, European Fertility Week focuses on the need to ensure equal, fair and safe access to treatment and public education on fertility.

BRUSSELS, 13 November 2022 – The 2022 European Fertility Week campaign “25 Million Journeys: One (in)fertility Challenge”, which runs from 7-13 November, focuses on personal journeys, gaps and barriers in regards to fertility. Since 2016, Fertility Europe, its members, and partner organisations have joined forces to raise awareness of the overall fertility journey through European Fertility Week. This year’s campaign highlights data collected by Fertility Europe and seeks to spread this knowledge with policymakers and the public so that the 25 million affected European citizens can be better supported in the future.

25 million people across the European Union suffer from infertility. In France alone, this number reaches 6.6 million, representing nearly one-tenth of the country’s population. All Europeans residing in different countries and cities are subject to various fertility services and policies. This institutional and legal fragmentation leads to inequalities in information provision and access to treatments across the continent.

Fertility Europe’s internal member survey reveals that the main barriers to diagnosis and treatment of (in)fertility consist of the limited availability of fertility treatments, stigma and a delay in action by a healthcare professional. Other impediments identified by members include a lack of psychological support tailored to different infertility treatment stages, long waiting times and poor fertility awareness. Possible solutions to these issues involve providing full public funding, psychological support, and information campaigns.

Therefore, Fertility Europe worked with Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Bartosz Arłukowicz to spread awareness through the “25 Million Journeys – One (In)fertility challenge” event that took place on 10 November 2022. Mr. Arłukowicz said: *‘As a medical doctor and a politician I stand for the patients’ right to equal, safe and efficient fertility treatment across the whole Europe.’*

Klaudija Kordic, Fertility Europe’s Executive Committee Chair stated: *‘This year’s European Fertility Week is about data and what it means for the patients’ journey. We know that 25 million people in the EU face fertility issues and each of them has a different journey depending on legal regulation on access, treatments available in their countries and levels of funding. In Fertility Europe we are determined to continue our hard work to remove barriers and inequalities in access to fertility treatments.’*

Notable participants included patients’ representatives: Bojana Santic from Croatia, Kate Brian from United Kingdom, Michael Hughes from Australia as well as ESHRE (European Society for

Human Reproduction and Embryology) Chair, Carlos Calhaz-Jorge and psychologist Mariana Moura Ramos.

European Fertility Week 2022 Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our partners for the European Fertility Week 2022 campaign:

'Equitable access to high-quality healthcare for all patients represents one of our core values at the European Patients' Forum. We believe everyone has the right to make their own fertility choices. For those who do choose to have children and require medical assistance with their fertility journey, they have the right to access fertility treatment and services efficiently and safely. Echoing this year's theme for the European Fertility Week, we would like to stress the importance of ensuring access and support to safe, equal, and efficient treatment options, for all patients throughout their chosen fertility journey, regardless of their country or background.' Anca Toma, European Patients' Forum

'As our European Atlas of Fertility Treatment Policies shows, there is still a lot of work to be done to guarantee fertility treatments as part of each country's health system without discrimination. Every country needs to grant their citizens the right to equal, safe and efficient access to fertility treatments' Neil Datta, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

About Fertility Europe

Fertility Europe is the Pan-European organisation representing patient associations dedicated to infertility, connecting those concerned with fertility problems, patient empowerment and engaging other stakeholders and the media. Fertility Europe is based in Brussels. It counts [member associations](#) from 28 countries and is a patient partner organisation of ESHRE.

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