Highlights of the 10th European Breast Cancer Conference

Including
The European Breast Units Manifesto
European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer
And
Key sessions of interest to advocates

A young survivor and advocate shares her story

The Advocacy Album and main events of the year

Reports from member countries
1. To promote the dissemination and exchange of factual, up-to-date information on breast cancer throughout Europe

2. To promote breast awareness

3. To emphasise the need for appropriate screening and early detection

4. To campaign for the provision of optimum treatment

5. To ensure provision of quality supportive care throughout and after treatment

6. To advocate appropriate training for health professionals

7. To acknowledge good practice and promote its development

8. To demand regular quality assessment of medical equipment

9. To ensure that all women understand fully any proposed treatment options, including entry into clinical trials and their right to a second opinion

10. To promote the advancement of breast cancer research

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The Personal is Political

The European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC) is one of our most important events, one which EUROPA DONNA organises in equal partnership with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists (EUSOMA). EBCC10 took place in March, in Amsterdam, but the intensive work began in November 2014 with meetings and telephone conferences of the Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee.

The Chair of EBCC10 was Fatima Cardoso, and I served as the Co-Chair; the content of the conference included sessions covering the steps of the patient’s journey through this disease, beginning with risk factors, lifestyle and prevention, optimal diagnosis, treatments, rehabilitation and on to survivorship, follow-up, advanced disease, supportive and palliative care, including end of life treatment. In all these steps, EUROPA DONNA was very involved, and was a strong co-organiser of both the session design and speaker participation.

The winner of the 2016 EBCC Arts and Humanities Prize was the Norwegian Breast Cancer Society and the Norwegian Cancer Society for their film “To Mommy.” We showed this film at our Pan-European Conference in Paris in 2015, and we were all deeply moved by its message about this young mother with metastatic breast cancer. It is a poignant reminder of the importance of appreciating and treasuring the small moments in life and of creating memories that our children can cherish for the rest of their lives.

An EBC Council Working Group which included our CEO Susan Knox as patient advocate is developing an EBCC10 Manifesto on Specialist Breast Units, as this year is the deadline for implementation of specialist breast units across the European Union. The manifesto will point out the need for multidisciplinary teams and for all patients in the EU to have access to specialist breast units adhering to quality standards. These standards have not been met in most countries. This 2016 deadline was set in two European Parliament Resolutions and two Written Declarations on breast cancer spearheaded by our organisation.

It is inspiring that more advocates participated in EBCC10 than in all the previous years. This could be seen in our General Assembly, which brought together more than 100 advocates, representing most of our 47 member countries. They were all interested in hearing about EUROPA DONNA’s activities and our future plans.

At our Board Meeting in Amsterdam it was decided that the next EUROPA DONNA Pan-European Conference will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2017. At the end of June, I had the honour to be invited to the 2nd St. Petersburg Oncology Forum “White Nights – 2016”. The forum is supported by the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO). I will deliver a talk entitled “The work of patient advocates: EUROPA DONNA”, and will discuss our extensive collaboration with scientific societies.

In September, I am looking forward to meeting our National Delegates and National Representatives in Milan for our Advocacy Leader Conference. We have an exciting programme planned and will again invite advocates with metastatic breast cancer to attend special sessions and workshops regarding this topic. In Milan we will also hold a General Assembly with elections for 3 new Board Members, as Nicole Zernik, Mojca Miklavčič and Gertrude Abela are completing the third year of their second term on the Board of EUROPA DONNA. I would like to express my deep appreciation to them for their commitment and advocacy work over the last years.

On 10-13 November, it will be my privilege to participate in the IIBCC – Istanbul International Breast Cancer Conference. I will be a guest speaker in the opening ceremony of the event, participate in the patient advocacy track sessions and in the Breast Cancer Nurse Training Day.

2016 is a year filled with many important activities for advocates and I look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming events.

President
Roswitha Britz

“It is inspiring that more advocates participated in EBCC10 than in previous years”
EUROPA DONNA has served on various committees of this trial since its outset 10 years ago. In addition, I participated in an interview for the article “Pharmacoeconomics: Can we afford new cancer drugs?” published by BIG in March. We continue our work with the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) on the EURECCA study that is developing a registry to evaluate nipple-sparing mastectomy. In these collaborations EUROPA DONNA provides an essential role in helping to make documents easily understandable to patients and the lay public. The 2nd European School of Oncology (ESO) Masterclass for cancer patient advocacy organisations took place in late June. I participated on the Steering Committee and both our Deputy CEO Karen Benn and I were on the faculty for this event. EUROPA DONNA remains a model in its growth and development as an independent patient advocacy organisation over the years; in our presentations we aimed to provide concrete methods on how organisations can reach their goals of independence, financial security, and sustainability over time as well as how they can directly impact European institutions and policies.

Work continues to develop our strategy to improve services for women with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) in all countries. To that end, at the Advocacy Leader Conference we will again hold a special workshop for women with MBC. EUROPA DONNA will now begin to build an entire new section of our website devoted to information and tools that could be helpful to advocate for better MBC services in our countries. At the same time, we are participating in the Global Alliance on MBC to contribute to a wider audience so that women with MBC everywhere will gain access to key information and services.

2016 marks the 9th year of our prevention programme, Breast Health Day. More than 30 countries are now participating in this campaign, either through social media or with local activities. Several new sections have been added to the BHD website this year to provide additional research information to the public and to provide important information about lifestyle factors that may help to prevent a recurrence for women who have had breast cancer.

We will also be present at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) meeting in Copenhagen in October and will hold our sponsor meeting there. In October, we will meet with MEPs in Brussels to provide them with an update on the progress in implementing the Written Declaration Against Breast Cancer in the EU of July 2015. It remains an important role for us as Europe’s breast cancer advocacy organisation to constantly follow up on these initiatives with members of the European Parliament. In November, I will speak at the Annual Scientific Meeting of International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) on quality of life of older women with breast cancer, followed by our advocacy training course as well as the 2016 plenary of the ECIBC. EUROPA DONNA remains constantly engaged and active in all breast cancer initiatives in Europe.
More than 100 advocates from most of EUROPA DONNA – The European Breast Cancer Coalition’s 47 member countries were in Amsterdam for the 10th European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC10) to learn about the latest scientific findings in breast cancer, progress with European policy on implementing breast services, and to present the patient’s perspective. EUROPA DONNA is a co-organiser of EBCC in equal partnership with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and the European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists (EUSOMA). EBCC10 attracted about 3100 delegates from more than 90 countries. It is the only breast cancer conference to include all the major players in breast cancer and encourages interaction and collaboration between clinicians, scientists and patients. This year’s scientific programme was divided into the steps of the patient journey. ED advocates took part in the programme, the organisation and also chaired and presented in sessions on topics ranging from communication and lifestyles to side effects of treatment and survivorship.

ED President and conference co-chair Roswitha Britz presented the EBCC Arts and Humanities Prize to the Norwegian Breast Cancer Society and the Norwegian Cancer Society for their film “To Mommy”, about a 27-year-old mother living with advanced breast cancer. This echoes the Coalition’s commitment to increasing awareness of the needs of women with metastatic breast cancer (MBC), as well as those of younger women.

One of EUROPA DONNA’s other main advocacy objectives is to see the implementation of specialist breast units that meet European quality standards, a demand which was included in the first EBCC Statement issued in 1998. EBCC10 continued to highlight this important goal by presenting its European Breast Cancer Science Award to Past President of EUSOMA Luigi Cataliotti for his achievements in setting out the requirements for specialist breast units that are included in the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis and in creating a breast unit accreditation system. In his acceptance speech, Prof Cataliotti acknowledged the hard work and dedication of EUROPA DONNA in advancing specialist breast unit implementation and accreditation through advocacy at the European Parliament and in its member countries. EBCC10’s Statement or Manifesto is also dedicated to this aim.

A special session at EBCC10 focused on presenting a Manifesto calling for all patients with breast cancer in Europe to be cared for only in specialist breast units. This call to action is in response to the fact that the 2016 deadline for all patients in the European Union to have access to specialist breast units adhering to quality standards has not been met in most countries. This deadline was set in two European Parliament Resolutions and two Written Declarations on breast cancer that were a result of EUROPA DONNA’s advocacy work. The EBCC10 Manifesto calls on policymakers and politicians to ensure that, as soon as possible, all women and men with breast cancer in Europe are treated in a specialist multidisciplinary breast unit and that these units meet the quality requirements of a European accreditation scheme. It also calls for the promotion and acknowledgement of the evidence that multidisciplinary breast units deliver superior care to women and men with breast cancer. This Manifesto was prepared by a European Breast Cancer Council working group whose members include ED CEO Susan Knox. Roswitha Britz told conference attendees: “We will use the Manifesto on implementation of specialist breast units in all of our advocacy activities. We commit to holding a meeting with MEPs to ensure their ongoing commitment to it and to secure their help to get it implemented.”

Read the Manifesto
www.ecco-org.eu
European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

This important session for EUROPA DONNA outlined the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC), which involves creating a pilot, voluntary quality assurance scheme for breast cancer services and a new edition of the European guidelines on screening and diagnosis. Donata Lerda of the Joint Research Centre, which is in charge of scientifically and technically implementing the plan for DG SANTE, explained that a web hub will host all the elements of the programme. The scheme is to be ready for feedback, piloting and reviewing in 2018. Chris de Wolf, chair of the guidelines committee, described the complex process of formulating the new edition of the guidelines, to be called “European Breast Guidelines”. Robert Mansel, chair of the Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group (QASDG), said that their aim is to create a quality assurance programme that can be used by all and monitored by individual countries. He said that the hope is that it will be the “bible of how to use a breast cancer service”. In presentations on the patient’s perspective, Susan Knox described her role in the Guideline Development Group and ED Deputy CEO Karen Benn described her work on the QASDG. Susan Knox emphasised the importance of Member States being involved throughout the development process so that the scheme can be rolled out immediately upon its completion: “EUROPA DONNA has already dedicated 15 years to working on achieving quality assurance for the women of Europe, so we are looking forward to the execution of ECIBC.”

ECIBC web hub
http://ecibc.jrc.ec.europa.eu

Style your life

Annie Anderson of the United Kingdom presented World Cancer Research Fund data indicating that 38% of postmenopausal breast cancer could be avoided through lifestyle measures such as maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active and restricting alcohol intake. She cited studies showing the benefit of giving women lifestyle advice during mammography screening visits. For instance, a feasibility study of a lifestyle intervention within a breast cancer screening programme led to improvements in BMI, waist circumference and physical activity. The study also indicated that women were aware of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, but were less aware of its role in reducing breast cancer risk. Marina Pollán of Spain emphasised the potential impact of rising obesity in Europe and worldwide: research indicates that obese women have a higher incidence of postmenopausal breast cancer, their tumours tend to be larger and more aggressive and can have a worse prognosis than in non-obese women. In addition to biological and metabolic factors, she cited data on other factors that can increase breast cancer mortality in obese women: delayed diagnosis due to their lower likelihood to attend screening or...
Survivorship and social economic issues for women with early and advanced breast cancer

As many more women are living with and beyond breast cancer, they may have psychosocial, financial, and treatment-related concerns and so on. ED Past President Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström described the obstacles some women face in obtaining insurance, whether health, life or travel. She said that insurance company policies have not evolved in step with the progress made in breast cancer treatments and the price of insurance often exceeds the benefit. She added that specific grounds for anti-discrimination in the EU treaty do not include having a chronic disease and suggested that this is an area for advocacy. ED Vice-President Evi Papadopoulos spoke about the perceptions and challenges of women living with MBC. Many women are expected to cope with anxiety, depression, losing control of their bodies, as part of the disease process. She said that women need encouragement, support and empowerment, help in dealing with side effects of treatment as well as with financial stress. Evi Papadopoulos was also a co-author of the late breaking abstract “Global Status of Advanced/Metastatic Breast Cancer (ABC/MBC): A Decade Report 2005-2015.”

Breast density and risk

ED Past President Elizabeth Bergsten Nordström opened the session on breast density with a talk on the patient’s perspective, saying that if women are aware that they have dense breasts they can make an informed decision about screening. She added that a recent study has confirmed evidence that ultrasound in addition to mammography increased the detection of early cancers. Ulrich Bick from Germany said that about one-third of breast cancers can be missed in dense breasts, and often there are more cancers detected between screenings (interval cancers) and they tend to be small and invasive. More registry data on interval cancers are needed. Catherine Colin of France spoke against density as a prognostic factor as, she stated, it is unclear how density is measured. In a late-breaking abstract session, Nehmat Houssami from Australia presented an Italian-based study in 3,231 women with dense breasts and a negative mammography who underwent tomosynthesis and ultrasound. The interim analysis showed that while ultrasound detected more additional breast cancers, tomosynthesis detected 50% of them and could be a potential primary screening method for women with dense breasts.
Managing side effects of treatment: focus on complementary medicine and physical activity

The possible side effects of treatment are many, and include psychosocial effects such as depression and sleep disturbance as well as physical effects such as hot flushes and fatigue. In a presentation on complementary medicine, Debra Barton of the United States cited reports that up to 100% of cancer patients experience fatigue during chemotherapy and radiotherapy and this can persist long after treatment. Yoga, Tai Chi and ginseng have been shown to improve fatigue. Hypnosis was found to be helpful for hot flushes. She said that more research is needed on acupuncture, which has been studied in reducing joint and muscle pain. She recommended doctor-patient communication about complementary therapies, particularly use of dietary supplements and herbs. “Natural” products can have unknown mechanisms and drug interactions. On a topic of key interest to EUROPA DONNA, Oreste Gentilini of Italy discussed the role of physical activity in reducing side effects of treatment. It is time to do away with the widespread belief that breast cancer management requires rest rather than exercise. Many studies have shown that physical activity during or after treatment improves fatigue, quality of life and physical performance, while decreasing depression and cancer- or treatment-related symptoms. In turn, it may also help women adhere to necessary treatments. For instance, exercise improves the joint pain associated with aromatase inhibitor use, one of the most common reasons for poor adherence to this long-term medication. Dr Gentili also described the ongoing LIVE trial (Life ImproVed by Exercise) examining quality of life as well as side effects of medical treatments, among other endpoints, in more than 200 breast cancer survivors who did not exercise regularly. This trial is being conducted by the European Institute of Oncology and EUROPA DONNA is a member of the Steering Committee. Dr Gentili added that studies to date indicate that the benefit of exercise is mostly seen with 150 minutes per week for 6 months and at moderate or high intensity. In his conclusion he asked the audience, “Do we really need more data to recommend to our patients a healthy lifestyle with physical exercise performed on a regularly basis?”

Affordability of care: a matter for debate

In many countries, affordability of cancer care is an emotional issue rather than a practical one, David Taylor of the United Kingdom said in an opening presentation. For developed countries, cancer care is expensive but affordable. He added that the amount spent per person on cancer drugs is a fraction of that spent on alcohol, for instance. The ageing population rather than increasing health care costs, shifts them to a later date; the problem, he said, is that societies do not always make it easy for cancer survivors to work. In the ensuing panel discussion in which ED’s Karen Benn took part, the panel agreed that in developing countries or those with limited resources, access to treatment is often not the problem; it is access to infrastructure and adequately trained professionals. Creating a government body (or non-pharma) consortium responsible for research in Europe could foster studies and keep clinical trials in Europe. Fatima Cardoso, the EBCC10 Chair, pointed out that following the treatment guidelines should help to reduce unnecessary drug expenditures.

Treatment during pregnancy and pregnancy after treatment

Hatem Azim of Belgium presented data on breast cancer and pregnancy, which is still an area of ongoing research. He said that pregnancy during breast cancer, in the short term, could worsen prognosis possibly by modulating the breast cancer biology and treatment targets. Anthracyclines and taxanes are safe after the first trimester, but trastuzumab must be avoided during pregnancy. He emphasised that one should always try to deliver the baby at term. He presented the ongoing IBCSG 4814 POSITIVE trial, for which ED Executive Board Member Olivia Pagani is a study chair. It is recruiting pregnant women with oestrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer to investigate the effect of interrupting hormonal treatment for 2 years or less on breast cancer recurrence and outcomes for the child. Pregnancy after breast cancer has been shown to be safe for the baby and for the mother, but not to have a protective effect. Women need time off from hormonal therapy before trying to get pregnant. Recommendations for pregnancy and treatment decisions need to be based on each woman’s case and type of breast cancer.
Living with Breast Cancer

Feeling Fine

Life is nice, life is terrible, life is interesting, but sometimes cruel.... Yes, even though every human being tries to have a good life, as it is just given once, it can bring cruel surprises, and the surprise can come as two simple words – breast cancer.

I am Nvard from Armenia. I am just 30 years old, happy and joyful. During these 30 years I have got a lot out of life – I have the nicest family and friends; I have a very good job and have had the chance to travel a lot. I am specialised in information technologies (IT), and I work as an IT expert. I was just enjoying my life, and I could not even imagine that one day I would see a doctor and my life would turn upside down – the happiest person in the world could become the saddest.

I had noticed a small “ball” in my left breast for a while, never suspecting that that ball could be cancer. I read a lot on the Internet and decided to see a doctor and at last find out what that “ball” meant. When I was having all the tests, I was sure that it couldn’t be anything serious. My doctor asked me to come in to discuss the results. I was very happy and smiling when my doctor tried to tell me that I would need treatment that could take a while, and medications and procedures. Now I don’t remember how the world turned black; I don’t remember the moment when I understood the word cancer. What would I do? What would come next? For how long? The only questions I was asking myself were how long would I live and why this was happening to me.

The first days were the most difficult. I wanted to stop my life, to take care of some issues and end it. I only cried in my room and didn’t feel anything. Why? Why did I have this? What have I done and what should I do next? Everywhere questions and no answers, no answers and deep emptiness.

I can’t remember now how I decided to go to see my doctor. After so many days of the deepest sadness I made my decision – I must, have to or maybe ought to try to survive, try to have some treatment and live. I would get well and one fine day I would have a nice family with children. With hope in my heart that maybe I would overcome the cancer, I visited my doctor again. And I am so grateful to the whole world; everyone did so much to support me, to make my life as it was before. I was able to hide my tears and smile. On the day of surgery I was praying and smiling... Strangely, I still wonder about the secret to my survival. Smiling? Believing?

And so 3 years passed, with treatments, with visits to doctors.

During those years I created an NGO, which later became a member of EUROPA DONNA. I began to study for my PhD and next year I will have a PhD in IT management. In these 3 years I received the best present – life, simple life, which goes on and on. There are many difficulties, but everything can be overcome through the simplest things – smiling, belief and hope. Smile, as it is the key to the soul; belief, as it is a powerful weapon; and hope, which destroys all negative thoughts. Those 3 years showed me the importance of forbearance and answered the most important question of life – life is beautiful and I must enjoy every moment, cherish and appreciate what I have. Every day of my life I am very grateful to the morning sun that opens my eyes, and makes me see the world.

Now, as the National Representative of EUROPA DONNA Armenia, I encourage every woman to have a regular breast exam to detect possible cancer early. I tell everybody that if a young woman of 27 could survive, have all the treatments and smile even when she was at her lowest, then every woman can have the will to survive, no matter where she lives, at whatever age.

I am not complaining. I am very glad that I am fine, that I can smile and can see so many smiling faces. I feel fine now and wish for every woman everywhere to feel fine, like me.
Advocacy Album

The European Breast Cancer Conference (EBCC) is a unique opportunity for EUROPA DONNA advocates to participate as equal partners with scientists in sessions on breast cancer research, and topics of special interest to advocates. EBCC10 welcomed more than 100 ED advocates from most of the Coalitions’s 47 member countries.
Albania

Activities for 2016

- A conference about breast cancer (BC) and BRCA mutations
- Investigation into corruption in oncology
- Monthly activities, such as Café Donna meetings for women and supporting events
- Lectures on BC
- Advocacy to defend the rights of cancer patients
- In June, attending a roundtable held by the “Together for Life” association within the framework of the closure of the project “Challenges of cancer patients within the Albanian health care system”. The roundtable aimed to raise the awareness of the public and institutions about cancer patients in order to improve the health care services they are entitled to
- Pink October activities
- Free mammography, including monitoring service performance

Austria

Highlights of 2015

- 2nd Austrian Breast Cancer Patients Congress
- Doctor-patient communication training session
- Advocacy and public relations
- Breast Health Day (BHD) campaign: “Day of Movement”
- Social media and Google AdWords campaigns
- Participation in conferences and public events

Activities for 2016

- 3rd Austrian Breast Cancer Patients Congress
- Annual activities: advocacy and public relations, “Day of Movement” BHD campaign, and participation in conferences and public events
- Cooperation with Austrian Cancer Aid and Pink Ribbon
- Pink Dragons Austria paddling event
- Creating a book “You are Not Alone”, a guide for BC patients

Armenia

Activities for 2016

- In March, a charity concert “You are Not Alone”, fighting against BC
- Annual activities, including meetings with women, breast health projects, regional visits (training sessions and free ultrasound exams), conferences and training courses, participation in fora, TV programmes, and meetings with different organisations
- In May, a bicycle race promoting the advantages of early detection of BC
- In September, a patient conference on BC
- On October 15, a breast health marathon and promotion of healthy lifestyles

Belarus

Highlights of 2015

- Starting webinars for palliative care with consultants from Harvard University
- Organising an NGO training in BC advocacy and capacity building in Bucharest
- Attending the ED Pan-European conference
- Supporting BC group development from Grodno and recommending their participation in the ED Advocacy Training Course
- Monitoring BC screening activities
- Training journalists on covering BC
- Participating in the EBCC10 Arts and Humanities Award with a video project by a Belarusian producer
Strength in Numbers

- New psychological support club for BC survivors and their families

Activities for 2016
- Attending EBCC10 and sharing materials with BC groups in Belarus
- Participation in June 2016 Eurasia Oncology Conference in Minsk
- Developing a new ED Belarus website and Facebook page
- Continuing with capacity building of NGOs and promoting evidence-based BC information for patients
- June Photo exhibit “You are Beautiful” with BC survivors to raise money for a psychological support group
- A July meeting with the Grodno BC support group

Belgium

Highlights of 2015
- Participating in a meeting, “Progress Today, Standards for Tomorrow?”
- Attending the kick-off in West-Flanders of the “Back to work after cancer” pilot project
- Participating in a golf tournament for cancer research
- Presenting at a symposium on breast reconstruction
- Supporting the project “European Training Network on Breast Imaging and Analyses – IMAGINEU”
- Co-organising and participating in “Breast Action” and the Belgian Breast Meeting
- Participating in the colloquium “Breast cancer without taboo” in Paris
- Meeting of a BC support group dedicated to quality indicators for BC, organised by the Belgian Cancer Registry, and in which ED Belgium is a partner
- Attending the ED Pan-European Conference and promoting BHD
- A General Assembly and elections of a new board

Activities for 2016
- Organising a day on “Healthy Food: A Real Pleasure” and “Moving Healthy: Feeling Happy”
- Preparing for a second ED Belgium Day
- Holding a General Assembly in France and a meeting with ED France

Croatia

Highlights of 2015
- “Daffodil Day” at 25 locations in Zagreb, and in 39 other cities
- Attending European patient organisation meetings and the St Gallen International Breast Cancer Conference
- A Pink Week charity event with donations to purchase an intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT) device
- Advocacy activities for special breast units and on comprehensive cancer care and research
- Participating in national projects for the cancer strategy
- Media campaigns and lectures on BC and on healthy lifestyles, as well as BHD activities
- Pink Ribbon activities and walks
- Organising in co-operation with the Croatian Public Health Institute a conference entitled “Multidisciplinary approach to diagnosis of breast diseases”
- Participating in the working group to establish Croatian guidelines for genetic testing for breast and ovarian cancer

Activities for 2016
- Attending EBCC10 and the ED Advocacy Leader Conference
- Attending the meeting “International Experience Exchange for Patient Organisations”
- Annual General Assembly
- A fund-raising campaign for the purchase of an IORT device
- A charity concert in November

Cyprus

Highlights of 2015
- Lectures on BC awareness
- Participation in the steering committee and close follow-up of the national screening programme
- Meetings with the Ministry of Health and follow-up on the implementation of a breast unit in Nicosia General Hospital
- Pink Silhouette Walk with over 12,000 participants
- BHD events
- Pink illumination of Paphos medieval castle
- Summer party for women with BC
- Continuation of the Bosom Friends, giving free prostheses, as well as bras, wigs, and financial support
- Group and individual meetings with ED Cyprus psychologist
- Co-organisers for Cancer Day event “We Can – I Can”
- Participation in various local and European conferences, with 30 women from Cyprus attending the ED Pan-European Conference
- Look Good, Feel Good Day activities in all ED Cyprus Houses
- Beach party for all ED Cyprus members
- Christmas and Easter family food packages
- Two fund-raising fashion shows in different towns

Activities for 2016
- Annual activities: Pink Silhouette walk, BHD events, the Summer Party, meetings with the psychologist, Bosom Friends programme, Cancer Day event, and “Look Good, Feel Good Day” activities, Christmas and Easter family food packages, participation in conferences
- Follow up on the implementation of Nicosia General Hospital breast unit and of the national screening programme
- Lecture in memory of a member who lost her life after many years with BC
- Lectures in all towns on awareness
- Co-organising a conference on home nursing
- Crafts workshop in all ED Cyprus Houses
- Representing Cyprus at the European Patients’ Forum
- Updating ED Cyprus leaflets
- Participation in solidarity runs
- Participation in a charity event “I Fitness”, a full day of Pilates, yoga and other activities

Czech Republic

Highlights of 2015
- Annual activities: educational seminars, “You Can Also Do It” event, 2 outings for young women with BC and their children, and professionals
- Annual Alliance of Women with Breast Cancer Conference
- An Alliance of Women with Breast Cancer Day in Brno
- Projects focused on BC prevention (Mammography Day, lectures on prevention for secondary schools, “We Are Swimming the Breast Stroke” for BHD)
- An educational seminar for volunteer caregivers
- A national meeting of women with MBC in Prague
- A fashion show
- Participation in the 50th International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary as a non-profit partner
Activities for 2016
- A cycle of professional seminars for patients’ organisations on psychological support during and after treatment
- Annual Alliance of Women with Breast Cancer Conference
- Campaigns focused on BC prevention – BHD (We are swimming the Breast Stroke, Closely Watched Breasts, Avon Walking, education at schools)
- Ongoing Invisible Women project focused on patients with metastatic breast cancer (MBC)
- Ongoing Bellis-Young and Cancer project focused on young patients

Estonia

Highlights of 2015
- Cancer patient group monthly meetings with presentations and counselling by medical professionals
- May Breast Health Awareness Month activities, including press releases, TV and radio interviews and print media articles. The ED mammography bus promoted breast screening at the annual marathon
- National conference for cancer patients covering treatments, patients’ rights, home support
- Health and education weekend retreat for cancer patients
- October BHD activities, including nation-wide Pink Ribbon campaign and a fund-raising concert
- Participation in EBCC10

Activities for 2016
- Continuing the cancer patient group meetings
- May Breast Health Awareness Month activities with media coverage and reintroduction of the Denim Day campaign to raise funds for BC
- Annual summer retreat for cancer patients and support groups
- Nation-wide Pink Ribbon campaign to coincide with BHD
- Participation in the ED BC Advocacy Training Course

Finland

Highlights of 2015
- Celebrating 10th anniversary with a seminar and several lectures
- Promoting the European Parliament Written Declaration on BC to Finnish MEPs
- Hosting 61 peer support meetings in 7 cities, with separate groups for young women and MBC patients
- BHD activities: information on healthy lifestyles and BC prevention, a lecture by a nutritional therapist, a session opened by a Finnish MP
- Organising a sports weekend, a musical weekend and expressive art therapy course
- Conducting a survey on availability of and information on supportive care (eg, psychosocial support, physiotherapy for lymphoedema) during and after cancer treatment

Activities for 2016
- Producing a video on how to exercise to ease lymphoedema symptoms
- Training new peer support specialists
- A sports weekend and art therapy course for members
- A separate art therapy course and recreational activities for women with MBC
- Educational lectures
- Pink Ribbon activities and BHD events

France

Highlights of 2015
- Follow-up Right to Oblivion and screening campaign with National Cancer Institute
- Monthly Café Donna in Paris, Lille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Nantes and Bordeaux, where BC patients come to share experiences
- Monthly sporting events in regional delegations, where women can exchange their experiences
- Pink October across the country (events, races, booths in hospitals, conferences focusing on screening)
- Debate on a national TV network on the importance of early screening
- 2015 ED Pan-European conference held in Paris
- Yearly congress at the Senate

Activities for 2016
- Café Donna activities
- Promoting physical activity
- Congress at the Senate
- Pink October throughout the country

Georgia

Highlights of 2015
- In February, an information campaign “Target For Life” for the availability of targeted therapy
- Launching a government petition requesting financing of trastuzumab, which was awarded in November for women with primary HER2-positive BC
- Supporting concert at state conservatory
- Advocacy training among students
- In October, a fashion show by a well-known designer with participation of BC patients

Activities for 2016
- For BHD, a live chain by students in the main square of the capital and a football match between the Georgian women’s football team and patients
- A charity concert by singer Anita Rachvelishvili, dedicated to ED Georgia and aired in 6 European countries
- Participation in the popular talk show “Another Angle”

Greece

Activities for 2015 and 2016
- Attending the ED Advocacy Training Course and EBCC10
- Moving to new offices in Psychiko, Athens
- Participation in TV panels on BC
- Successfully advocated to the Greek Parliament for the formation of a Cancer Advocacy Board to make suggestions for bills regarding BC issues
- Meetings at the Ministry of Health on NGOs and maintaining the national health care system
- Participation in the Centre for Disease Control Committee on Cancer Registries
- BHD activities, including illuminating a pink ribbon on the facade of the Parliament building, with extensive media coverage
- Organising an educational event on BC prevention and treatment with the participation of renowned physicians
- Participation in the Breast Cancer Conference held by the University Hospital in Athens, and the Women for Oncology Cancer Conference
- Increasing membership by 500 people through a web-based registration process
- Working towards a charity programme for free BRCA mutation testing
- In cooperation with the Greek Oncologists Organisation, formally proposing a reimbursement programme for genetic testing to the Ministry of Health

Iceland

Highlights of 2015
- A forum about BC surgery in Iceland: “Where are we now and where are we heading?”
- A forum on BC in cooperation with the Icelandic cancer associations on the topic, “Do we receive the best service possible in Iceland?”
- “Casting for Recovery,” a fishing activity, every year for women in rehabilitation after BC treatment
- For BHD, walking with pink balloons in the centre of Reykjavík
Activities for 2016
- A forum on BC surgery in Iceland, dedicated to breast reconstruction with one's own tissue
- A forum on BRCA1 and 2 mutations on the topic, “Do we want to know?”
- Casting for Recovery
- The Nordic Conference for Breast Cancer volunteers groups in Reykjavik with the main topics BRCA1 and 2 mutations and living with a BC diagnosis

Ireland

Highlights of 2015
- Presentations to community organisations and cancer support centres
- Dragon Boat roadshow promoting healthy lifestyles
- ED Ireland stand at 3 conferences
- BHD breakfast with public representatives; a public event “Kickstart Your Health” to promote healthy eating; activities in 27 cancer support centres and community organisations; collaboration with Conway Institute, University College Dublin (UCD), and students
- Launch of “Lymphoedema in Breast Cancer” leaflet
- ED Ireland representatives on bodies including new National Cancer Strategy group and Radiographers’ Registration Board

Activities for 2016
- Patient Voice in Cancer Research, Conway Institute, UCD
- Presentation at launch of a report on MBC
- Meeting with All-Ireland Cooperative Oncology Research Group
- Presentation on MBC issues to public representatives and a public information session
- Development of MBC Connect project, with public meetings, creation of Facebook group for MBC women, and leaflet
- Development of psycho-oncology leaflet
- MBC Day and BHD activities

Israel

Highlights of 2015
- A press release on up-to-date BC incidence, survival and mortality rates in Israel
- New public information booklets and advertisements
- Partnering with a cosmetic company in illuminating the Rabin Centre in Tel Aviv in pink and launching a project with a café chain, offering coffee in pink paper cups and healthy cookies
- Annual “Celebrating Life” Seminar
- Partnering with online portals aimed at women
- Disseminating ED materials via the website and Facebook

Activities for 2016
- A press release on BC incidence, survival and mortality rates in Israel
- Continued posting of public service announcements, articles, personal stories and ED materials on the website and Facebook
- Continued collaboration with a cosmetic company and other partners
- The “Celebrating Life” seminar

Italy

Highlights of 2015
- Promotion of the law on breast units throughout the regions with 2 public events in Bologna and Genoa
- Implementation of BC screening in the south with a public event in Naples

Activities for 2016
- Creating the first chapter, “Breast Unit”, of an interactive library
- The preliminary session of a training programme for associations working in the breast unit
- Proposal for legislation to protect working women with BC, signed by trade associations and unions
- Second survey on the MBC patients’ needs and presentation at the Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC) conference

Kazakhstan

Highlights of 2015
- On 30 October, a “Pink Ribbon” marathon in Zharkent and funds raised went to breast screening of more than 200 women
- Publishing 3000 information booklets for women focusing on BC, treatment, follow-up, and life after the disease
- Printing 3000 information booklets on chemotherapy for those undergoing treatment, discussing nutritional effects of chemotherapy, how to cope with possible adverse effects, and psychological considerations

Activities for 2016
- Planning a flash mob to advocate for BC issues
- Conducting an information campaign to increase the number of women participating in breast screening

Kyrgyzstan

Highlights of 2015
- A charity event dedicated to International Women’s Day on 4 March
- In October, a photo exhibition of BC survivors, open days at a mammography examination room, and participation in the ED Pan-European Conference
- In November, participation in the ED Advocacy Training Course
- Awareness-raising activities (TV and radio programmes, articles in newspapers and online, printed materials on early detection of cancer and healthy lifestyles)

Activities for 2016
- A charity event dedicated to World Cancer Day on 4 February
- Participation in promoting the reconsideration of the Law on Oncology Care
- Awareness-raising activities to improve the quality of oncology service provision
- Participation in EBCC10
- Participation in ED Advocacy Leader Conference
- Pink October Events and fund-raising

Latvia

Highlights of 2015
- Patient advocacy activities related to psychosocial support and rehabilitation after the BC active-treatment phase
• For Pink Ribbon month in October an “Enjoy and Check” information and public awareness campaign
• “The Spring of Strength”, 3 psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for survivors
• Workshops and lectures on psychosocial rehabilitation and its significance for social workers in regions
• Brochures about psycho-emotional conditions (4 different types) and other printed materials
• Videos about the psychosocial rehabilitation programme

Activities for 2016
• Patient advocacy activities related to psychosocial support and rehabilitation after active treatment
• Campaign to collect donations to continue psychosocial rehabilitation centre construction
• “The Spring of Strength”, psychosocial rehabilitation programme for survivors
• Participation in the campaign “Check Your Breasts to Live” and charity walk “I Will Go”
• Informative materials and brochures

Luxembourg

Highlights of 2015
• Exhibition “Hymne à la Beauté” in Steinsel, Bertange, and at the shopping centre City Concorde
• Participation in 9 socio-oncological conferences at the Hospital Centre of Luxembourg
• International Women’s Day
• Participation in solidarity runs, “A Race for Life”, with an urban trail and a ladies’ run
• Europe Against Cancer awareness campaign during the European Presidency of Luxembourg
• Organising the “Broschtkriibslaf” annual run
• Participating in the ED Pan-European Conference in Paris

Activities for 2016
• Organising the “Serenity” conference with workshops on yoga, mindfulness, reflexology, sophrology, hypnotherapy, etc.
• In June, participation of a group at the “Breithorn” climb inspired by the film “Rope of Solidarity”
• In September, presentation of the results of the survey “Parcours de Femmes”
• On 1 October, the “Broschtkriibslaf” annual run
• Preparation of a video-presentation on BC to be shown before the main film in cinemas during the month of October

Macedonia

Highlights of 2015
• Annual “Go Pink 2015” campaign
• The 8th National BC Conference, including the Minister of Health as one of the guest speakers
• As a result of advocacy efforts, a national screening programme was implemented, screening over 500 people
• A culinary event for BHD with women serving regional dishes
• Attending the ED Advocacy Training Course
• Increased calls to the hotline due to volunteers spreading word of services at the oncology department
• Regional educational workshops on BC awareness, survivorship and advocacy
• Winning the award for the “Most informative NGO website”

Activities for 2016
• Launch of a support group for women returning back to work/life, with an office space donated by the University Clinic of radiotherapy and oncology
• Joining 4 other NGOs in forming the “Alliance of Patients Organisations”, formally announced during World Cancer Day
• Advocating for a National Cancer Control Plan and Cancer Registry system
• Preparation for a capacity-building workshop for other BC associations
• Annual activities: the “Go Pink Walk” with a new 5-km Fun Run, educational workshops and preparation for the 9th National BC Conference

Malta

Highlights of 2015
• Advocacy course for advocates
• Several awareness walks
• A fashion show
• BHD activities
• Annual public lecture in Malta and Gozo
• Translation of the MBC Annex to the “Short Guide to the EU Guidelines”

Activities for 2016
• Awareness walks
• A lecture in Malta
• A seminar in Gozo
• BHD in Gozo
• A memorial seminar for Doris Fenech about MBC
• Translation of an MBC book from English to Maltese
• Various fund-raising activities

Monaco

Activities for 2015 and 2016
• Daily hospital visits to patients undergoing chemotherapy and providing a free-of-charge, non-medical “well-being space” 4 afternoons a week to welcome patients
• Developing sporting activities, light gymnastics, Tai-chi, no-risk abdominals, relaxation and meditation, as well as other services provided on an ongoing basis: a naturopath, an aesthetician, a psychologist who also performs art therapy sessions
• Monthly workshops on different themes: floral art, nutrition, beauty, make-up and cooking. ED Monaco strives to propose dynamic activities as the patients using their services are becoming younger and younger

The Netherlands

Highlights of 2015
• Presenting the patients’ perspective on BC care and the development of patient-reported outcomes measurements at the Dutch Institute for Clinical Auditing conference
• A conference “Between Hope and Fear” on MBC, with presentations about new treatment options and opportunities for patients to share experiences
• Launching a moving docufilm at the MBC conference about the experiences of 3 patients with MBC
• The Patient Congress in cooperation with Pink Ribbon and Boog (the BC research group) where new treatments and recent research were presented

Activities for 2016
• Further development of “B Bewust” (B Awareness), a web-based tool to help patients make informed choices about BC treatment, consisting of 12 theme lists such as treatment options, BC and sexuality. The lists are supported by informative videos, eg, “returning to work”, “men with breast cancer”, “the role of relatives and friends”

Norway

Highlights of 2015
• Weekend gatherings for women under 40, one with health and relaxation activities and one for women with MBC and their partners or relatives
• Supportive Care visiting 705 newly operated women, receiving 140 telephone calls and organising 10 self-help groups
### Strength in Numbers

- Pink Ribbon activities that collected 2.9 million euros and increased awareness of BC, especially MBC
- Advocacy involving cancer treatment and care

### Activities for 2016

- Awarded “The 2016 EBCC Arts and Humanities Award” for the film “To Mommy”
- Increasing awareness of hereditary BC
- Continuing to promote awareness about MBC
- Continuing advocacy on topics of cancer treatment and care
- Weekend gatherings for women under 40, one for women diagnosed 3-5 years ago, and for women diagnosed with MBC and their partners or relatives
- Pink Ribbon activities in October
- Supporting Norwegian researchers who can make a significant contribution to clinical management and patient care for women with MBC

### Highlights of 2015

- A new edition of the ED Poland brochure
- In July, a breast units exhibition at the Polish Parliament with the participation of politicians, scientists and representatives of NGOs
- BHD campaign with Pink Ribbon marches, press and scientific conferences, BHD brochures, calendars and gadgets, and free mammography for women from rural areas
- Participation of 10 ED Poland members at the ED Pan-European Conference and presentation of a poster
- Participation in the ED Advocacy Training Course
- Lectures about breast units in Rzeszów and Warsaw

### Activities for 2016

- In May, a conference “Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Breast Cancer” in Pila
- Publishing the 2nd edition of the “Quick guide to the prevention and diagnosis of breast cancer” and the Polish translation of the MBC annex to the “Short Guide to the European Guidelines”
- BHD activities
- Participating in EBCC10, the ED Advocacy Leader Conference and the ED Advocacy Training Course

### Portugal

### Highlights of 2015

- Working to have Portuguese MEPs sign the Written Declaration on the fight against BC in the EU
- Meetings with MPs and Economy Minister and attending Parliament Health Days
- Psycho-oncology consultations for women with MBC
- Campaign to raise funds and awareness for BC in order to purchase 3 direct digital mammography units
- The LPCC developed BC contents for the blind, in partnership with the Association of Blind and Partially Sighted of Portugal, producing a brochure in Braille, a booklet printed in large characters, audio support information, and an ebook format
- A media and digital campaign for BHD
- Holding the “Headscarves are also for Men” campaign, where men and women, including public figures, wore pink scarves to support women with BC and were challenged to change their profile picture on Facebook
- Commemorating the 25th anniversary of BC screening in Portugal

### Romania

### Highlights of 2015

- Media campaigns, with participation in national TV and radio debates
- In June, the first “Happy Run” with 1500 participants, including over 100 BC survivors, with proceeds going toward a hair donation campaign; external breast prostheses; free medical exams; psychological support and treatment information sessions; and meetings with doctors, authorities and patients to promote better legislation
- Celebrating BHD with social media representatives, bloggers and Romanian public figures
- Pink illumination of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila” in Bucharest and launching the “Brave Cut” campaign
- Promoting the Medical Centre of Excellence
- Fund-raising events to operate the mobile diagnostic units for breast and cervical cancer

### Activities for 2016

- Annual activities: the 2nd “Happy Run Family Fun”, the annual Pink Illumination Event and Brave Cut campaign
- Advocating for authorities, the media and the public to support the national BC screening programme, announced by the Romanian Ministry of Health. ED Romania contributed to the regulations and will provide mobile diagnostic units

### Russia

### Highlights of 2015

- Initiating and supporting the launch of the local BC programme in the Chuvash Republic
- Conducting a research-to-practice conference in Cheboksary
- Taking part in roundtables and conferences to encourage businesses to support local BC programmes in Russian regions
- Preparing a manual for women with newly diagnosed BC
- Supporting creation of an e-learning portal for radiologists
- Supporting and providing a grant to rehabilitation groups in the Kursk region
- Conducting “Doors Open Days” and public talks about breast health for women for BHD and Pink October
- Participating in the international conference on chronic diseases in Riga
- Participating in the ED Pan European Conference and the Advocacy Training Course
- Coordinating pilot mammography screening in Kursk region
- Donating equipment for lymphoedema prevention to medical centres, and computed radiography system and automatic workstation for a radiologist mammography screening unit

### Activities for 2016

- Supporting the launch of the local BC programme in the Belgorod region
- Mammography screening standardisation workshops for radiologists in Russian regions
- A public forum in support of local BC programme in Chuvash Republic
**Slovakia**

**Highlights of 2015**
- Supporting set up of mammography screening
- "Healing Art" exhibitions of paintings at St. Elisabeth Oncological Institute Prevention Centre
- BHD exhibition of paintings made by BC survivors and presentation of organisations against cancer
- Collaboration with the non-profit organisation Pontis of Dell in a common project called Prevention of Oncological Breast Diseases II
- Psychosocial support of BC survivors
- Lectures, TV appearances, articles in newspapers
- Creating, printing and distributing educational materials

**Activities for 2016**
- Continuation of activities: support the set-up of mammography screening, the “Healing Art” exhibition of paintings, and BHD presentation of a coalition of organisations against BC
- Teaching about early detection and prevention of BC

**Sweden**

**Highlights of 2015**
- Submitted a report on mammography, highlighting participation related to socioeconomic issues, among other topics, and another report on unequal BC care in Sweden and held meetings in the Swedish Parliament about both reports
- Held a Pink March on awareness of unequal care and arranged a well-attended seminar during the political week in Sweden
- These activities resulted in an increase of 300% in media attention compared to 2014

**Activities for 2016**
- As a result of the report submitted in 2015, the Parliament decided that mammography screening will be free
- Based on an ED Sweden report, the Parliament will decide whether or not to increase the age range for screening from 40-74 to 40-79 or 80 years
- New cooperation with the Women’s Health Half Marathon, with an awareness campaign and participation to stress the importance of prevention
- Holding a seminar and a workshop concerning MBC and registries and other access shortcomings within our health-care system during the political week at the beginning of July

**Slovenia**

**Highlights of 2015**
- Publication of 4 issues of ED News (132,000 copies of each issue)
- 20 lectures throughout Slovenia about BC, healthy lifestyle
- Counselling by telephone, personally, e-mail, and visiting patients in hospital
- Very active support group for young BC patients
- 2-day seminar on systemic treatment and psychosocial support for ED members with more than 150 attendees
- Participation in 2 festivals (Festival – F3ŽO and Festival of Health)
- Running and Walking for Hope in 4 cities
- Participation of 5 members in ED Pan-European Conference and 2 members in the Advocacy Training Course
- In October, a major campaign in 3 cities with the slogan “Lovely Day” with an “awareness dance” including ED members and students, more than 3000 participants in all

**Activities for 2016**
- Annual activities: publishing ED News, patient counselling, lectures throughout the country, and “Running and Walking For Hope”
- Emphasis on psychosocial support and holistic rehabilitation
- A 2-day seminar for ED members on psychosocial support
- A 2-day intensive seminar for active members with approx. 20 participants

**Spain**

**Highlights of 2015**
- Presenting a study on the information needs and health care expectations of BC patients
- ED Spain Universidad Menéndez Pelayo summer course for specialists and women with BC covering the challenge of maintaining sustainability of the public health system with a focus on clinical research and innovation
- On BHD, a press conference to present the Manifesto and an awareness campaign on early detection
- Participating in the National Health System Cancer Strategy as a member of the follow-up and evaluation committee
- Psychological support for women with BC and their families
- Physiotherapy for lymphoedema

**Activities for 2016**
- In June, attending the Breast Cancer Patient Group Forum
- Summer course at Universidad Menéndez Pelayo with a focus on survivorship
- On BHD, a media campaign about early detection and to present the 2016 Manifesto
- Advocacy activities and participation in the National Cancer Strategy
- Support in developing an app to assist women undergoing chemotherapy
- Psychosocial support for women with BC and their families, and physiotherapy for lymphoedema

**Switzerland**

**Highlights of 2015**
- New website www.europadonna.ch
- “Pink Yoga” outdoor event in Zurich to raise BC awareness, with Regula Curti, a yoga instructor who produced the CD “Beyond – Love Within” with Tina Turner, music that played during the session
- Launch of the group “Young women with breast cancer”
- Start of the mammography screening programme in the canton Ticino
- Presentation of the Italian website on breast health and BC care www.infoseno.org by the regional group of Southern Switzerland
- BHD activities in Southern Switzerland
- Advent calendar on Facebook
- Attending different conferences

**Activities for 2016**
- Celebration of 10 years ED Southern Switzerland
- Participation at the 30th Swiss women’s run in Bern by 3 teams (running and Nordic walking)
- European Ladies on the Road, biker event in Locarno organised by the Harley Davidson Club Ticino in favour of ED Switzerland
- BHD activities
- Keynote presentation at the BCY-3 (Breast cancer in young women) in Lugano
Strength in Numbers

Tajikistan

Highlights of 2015
• In March-December, a BC advocacy information campaign
• Workshops on breast awareness in Dushanbe, Chorog, Rostkalla districts
• BC patient support, such as psychology consultations, rehabilitation and prevention of lymphoedema
• Organising mobile doctor team visits to regions
• Psychological training for BC survivors and their families
• Printing booklets and information materials on BC
• In October, a Pink Ribbon gala dinner and fund-raising, and BHD activities

Activities for 2016
• Continuing the BC advocacy information campaign, workshops on breast awareness and organising support groups for BC survivors, “Communication Club”
• A roundtable on innovative approaches for BC advocacy in Europe and other regions and learning their experiences
• Activities for women on BC advocacy dedicated to BHD, International Children’s Day and the Week on Breastfeeding
• Monitoring and evaluating activities carried out by primary care physicians
• A meeting on psychosocial interventions for BC patients

Turkey

Highlights of 2015
• Participating in the ED Advocacy Training Course in Milan and attending a Patient Advocacy Capacity Building Programme sponsored by a local university in Turkey
• Developing patient seminars in Ankara to address age-specific issues for young BC and MBC survivors
• Participating in the annual New Year and Christmas bazaar with handicrafts and gift items provided by ED members

Activities for 2016
• Organising the BC Patient Track and the BC Nurse Day for the Istanbul International Breast Cancer Conference (IIBCC)
• Organising a full-day training for breast care nurses within the IIBCC programme, including an opening speech from ED President Roswitha Britz on the role of the BC nurses within the multidisciplinary team and the impact of specialist breast units
• Holding lifestyle and healthy diet seminars for volunteers who were trained to teach the information provided, as a part of a nation-wide education programme, to their neighbourhood and family members (a Teach The Teachers training provided by experienced patient advocates in Ankara)

Ukraine

Highlights of 2015
• Holding the 4th School of Mammography 5-day training course for breast radiologists, with international faculty. Since 2010, 131 Ukrainian radiologists have completed the course
• The 2nd BHD event in Ukrainian Parliament with participating MPs and representatives from the “Equal opportunities” parliamentary group, providing up-to-date information on BC, the importance of prevention and screening
• Pink October nation-wide information campaign on early diagnosis and prevention, including media events
• Participation of an ED Ukraine member in the ED Advocacy Training Course, followed by advocacy trainings session for BC advocates from different regions of Ukraine
• Permanent support of BC hotline

Activities for 2016
• 5th School of Modern Mammography for Ukrainian radiologists
• BHD at the Ukrainian Parliament
• Joint activities with partners as part of BHD

United Kingdom

Highlights of 2015
• ED UK Committee Member Dr Kate Fussell received “Lady of Substance Award” for lifetime services to women’s health and rights
• Involvement with Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention Centre hosting discussions on latest research by renowned scientists
• Medical advising to the crew on film “Missing You Already” with BC storyline to ensure medical correctness, with follow-up article published in Cancer Nursing Practice magazine
• Annual medical symposium with oncologists from Royal Marsden on new directions in surgery and oncology in BC
• Breast awareness sessions to a medical PR firm, and employees of a department store
• Breast screening event for women with learning disabilities
• Participation in a reception to further links in London of Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention
• Exhibition and information stand at National Cancer Conference hosted by UK Government’s All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer

Activities for 2016
• Presentation to London Soroptimists about ED
• Exhibition stands, BC awareness displays and presentations for BHD
• Annual symposium

Uzbekistan

Highlights of 2015
• In March, the “Circle of Hope” Pink Gala for survivors
• In May, seminars on raising BC awareness among young women in the cities of Andijan and Urgench
• In October, the ED Pan-European conference in Paris
• In December, a tea party with BC survivors at Tashkent City Oncology Clinic

Activities for 2016
• In January, a New Year celebration with BC survivors at the Tashkent City Oncology Clinic
• In March, an International Women’s Day tea party with oncologists and survivors
• In September, the ED Advocacy Leader Conference in Milan
• The Pink October charity gala
EUROPA DONNA has published a new booklet outlining the Coalition’s main activities, from its Advocacy Training Courses to its Pan-European Conferences. The booklet also covers EUROPA DONNA involvement in EU policy initiatives for breast cancer as well as its research collaborations. The brochure was distributed to all delegates at the 10th European Breast Cancer Conference and will be handed out at future conferences and meetings.

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Annex to the Short Guide to the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance has now been published in German, in addition to its other versions in Portuguese and Czech. All brochures are available on www.europadonna.org.

EUROPA DONNA Breast Cancer Advocacy Leader Conference
Building our Organisations for the Future
24 September 2016 – Milan, Italy

Breast Health Day
15 October 2016
The aim of the day is to disseminate information concerning breast health and to raise awareness of prevention and early detection of breast cancer among women and girls across the globe. This year’s campaign “Healthy Lifestyle for Breast Health” will remind women that engaging in physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and eating a healthy diet can help protect their breast health. A digital campaign including a viral video, as well as social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, will encourage women across the globe to make responsible daily choices for their breast health.

Progress on the 2015 Written Declaration on the Fight Against Breast Cancer in the EU – Meeting at the European Parliament
October 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

15th Annual EUROPA DONNA Breast Cancer Advocacy Training Course
18-20 November 2016 – Milan, Italy

13th EUROPA DONNA Pan-European Conference
28-29 October 2017 – Ljubljana, Slovenia

Do you have an opinion or news you wish to share? Let us know
info@europadonna.org

EUROPA DONNA – The European Breast Cancer Coalition is an independent, non-profit organisation whose members are affiliated groups from countries throughout Europe. The Coalition works to raise awareness of breast cancer and to mobilise the support of European women in pressing for improved breast cancer education, appropriate screening, optimal treatment and care and increased funding for research. EUROPA DONNA represents the interests of European women regarding breast cancer to local and national authorities as well as to institutions of the European Union.

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