

Albert van der Zeijden

First of all, the International Alliance of Patient Organisation is exactly what is says in its name, it's a global organisation of patients' organisations. So, not for patients's organisations, it is ourselves an organisation. This organisation, all these members also, have a vision, and this vision is patient centred health care throughout the world and for everyone. That is not an easy task, of course, to work on this. Our mission is to come close to that vision. Since there is diversity in the world of course –, it's different if you speak about patient centred health care in Europe, in North America or for instance in Africa, in Zambia, where I have been. So the first step to achieve a patient centred health care might be different in Africa, might be different in Europe. So if you see a policy statement of IAPO, it's very often a general statement, but this a ... entrance for the different parts of the world. Now, to come to the migrant friendly hospital, for that's why we are here, one of the reasons we are interested in this is that patient organisations themselves are not migrant friendly in the sense that migrants are very often not involved in their processes. So, there is not a strong advocacy for their interests. It is very interesting that we have a chance here to include this in the patient movement and in the advocacy. The interesting thing of the migrant friendly hospitals is that their ideas are coming very close to what we mean with patient centred health care. So it was not very difficult for us to say yes, when we were asked to become supporting partner of this process, in particular because we had been supporting partner for the health promoting hospitals for a couple of years. So, we learned that health promoting hospitals are like-minded organisations. This is exactly one of the strands for us to achieve, of our goals, that is, to work closely together with like-minded stakeholders, for we very well understand that we will never achieve patient centred health care, if we are trying to do it alone. We have to march all together as population towards the same goal. The migrant friendly hospitals, the health promoting hospitals are using our language. So it was a very easy task for us, our input to the Amsterdam Declaration has been very modest, but it was already there, what we wanted to see there. What are the interesting things there?

The interesting thing is that one of the values of our societies is that we don't let down, don't let alone people who are in medical need. It's in our constitutions that the state has a responsibility to care for the highest possible level of health for all citizens. This includes migrants. But migrant – and that's my second point – migrant

friendly hospitals are so interesting, because it's not just about migrants. It's about the rights of patients in general, for all patients are different from other patients, and migrant friendly hospitals are a very clear statement that we have to see the patients as individuals. Of course, you have to see those groups of patients ... in my opinion a real migrant friendly hospital will be a friendly hospital for all citizens, for all patients.