

# A Red Biotech Stakeholder Perspective

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# About IAPO

- Unique global alliance of 207 national, regional and international groups representing patients
- Crossing borders and diseases
- Vision: Patients throughout the world are at the centre of healthcare
- Membership spans over 50 countries and all world regions
- Representing an estimated 365 million patients



Capacity Building



Advocacy



Partnerships

# I APO's Mission

Our mission is to help build patient-centred healthcare in every country by:

1. **Realizing active partnerships with patients' organizations**, maximizing their impact through capacity building
2. **Advocating internationally** with a strong patients' voice on relevant aspects of healthcare policy, with the aim of influencing international, regional and national health agendas and policies
3. **Building cross-sector alliances** and working collaboratively with like-minded medical and health professionals, policy makers, academics, researchers and industry representatives

# About Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

- A progressive, debilitating chronic disease that inflicts serious physical, emotional and economic consequences<sup>1</sup>
- Affecting more than 2.9 million Europeans<sup>2</sup>
- 50% of RA patients are work-disabled within 10 years of disease onset<sup>3</sup>

# Impact of RA on Quality of Life

- In the long term, the major outcomes of RA include:
  - Joint deformity and malalignment
  - Need for joint replacement surgery
  - Functional disability
  - Work disability, lose of employment and reduction in income
  - Often premature death

## Dramatic cost of RA

- Some figures<sup>1</sup>:
  - RA costs Europe more than €45.4 billion a year (€42 billion in Western Europe and €3.4 billion in Eastern Europe)
  - Indirect costs such as lost production, informal care, and non-medical costs represent 65% of all RA-related costs

## Some Challenges

- Treatment options exist to reduce disease progression and improve inflammation-induced disability, and patients' quality of life
- But RA needs to be diagnosed and effectively treated early
- And large differences in patient access to biologic RA drugs between Member States needs to be addressed

## Contact us



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# My Story