**Engagement Programme 2018**

**Visit to Romaturka (Turkey)**

In late October 2018, PARE leaders Dieter Wiek, Vice President EULAR, representing PARE, together with Krisijonas Mazuras, member of the PARE Board, travelled to Turkey to meet the representatives of Romaturka Board and to participate in Romaturka’s Patient Day.

Romaturka was founded in 2006, has 60 members and 23 more applicants awaiting approval process. Its aims/objectives are informing and supporting people with all rheumatic diseases and their relatives. They have been very active on WADs in the past, when they had an awareness activity at the Ankara railway station. Romaturka offers educational material (e.g. disease specific, life stories, dictionary) for patients, the information events happen mainly in Ankara and the surrounding cities. Speakers are rheumatologists, topics are inflammatory and non-inflammatory diseases and pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments.

They are very social media active. A very interesting social media project is Novacode. It stands for a team consisting of scientists and graphic artists supported by a patient board. Scientific information should be expressed in everyday language. The aim is to create a single message with a simple illustration. They address all age groups and try to involve parents and their children in particular.
Patient Day 26 October 2018

Dieter Wiek had a presentation at the Patient Day on 26 October 2019 talking about “Don’t Delay, Connect Today – overview and outlook of the EULAR campaign”. His presentation was translated into Turkish for better understanding. There were between 100 and 120 participants of all ages.

Other sessions included information about different rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions given by Turkish rheumatologists. There were plenaries combined with parallel sessions.

“I could see that patients were very interested, asked questions, commented. Patients and patient representatives were speakers and moderators. We had two very informative days. We experienced the spirit and enthusiasm of Romaturka and really enjoyed the Turkish hospitality” said Dieter Wiek.