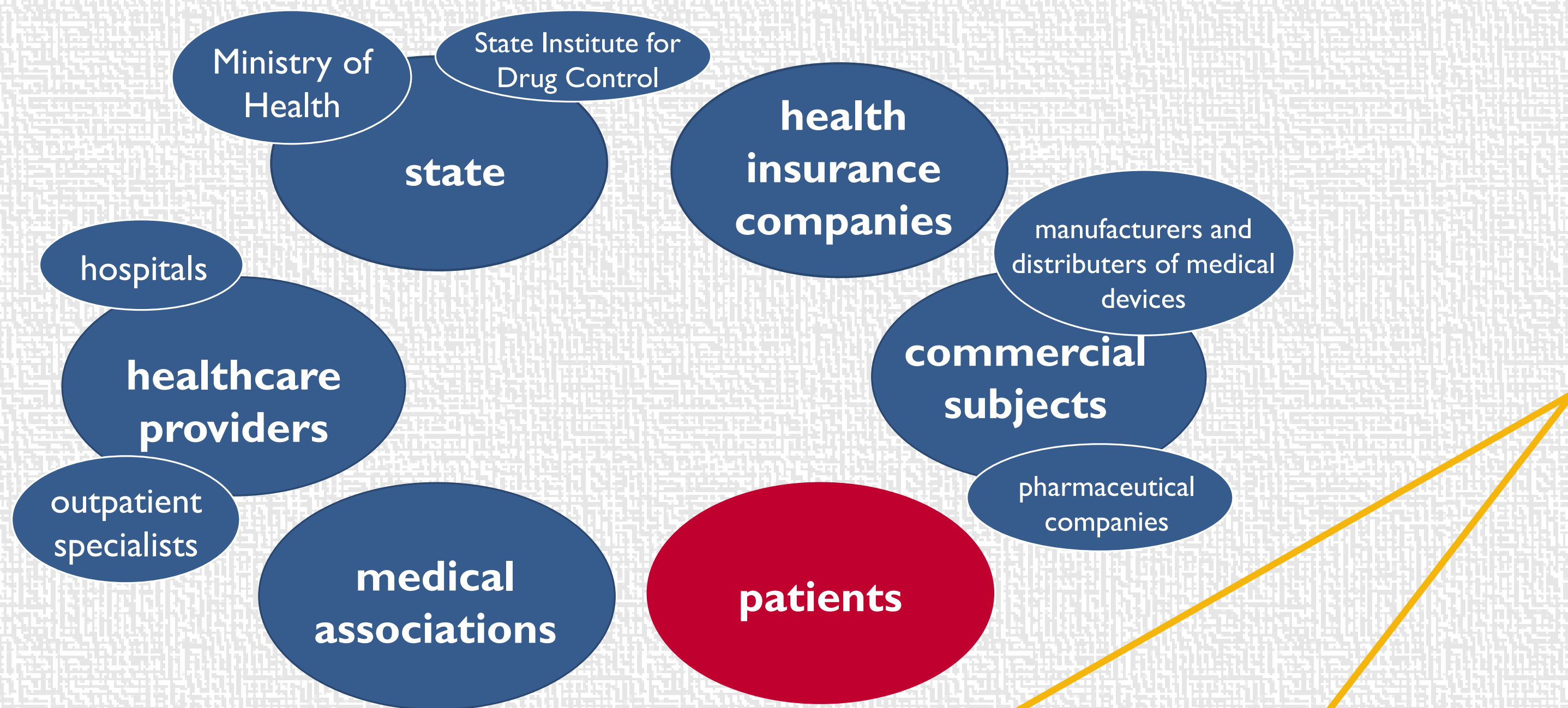
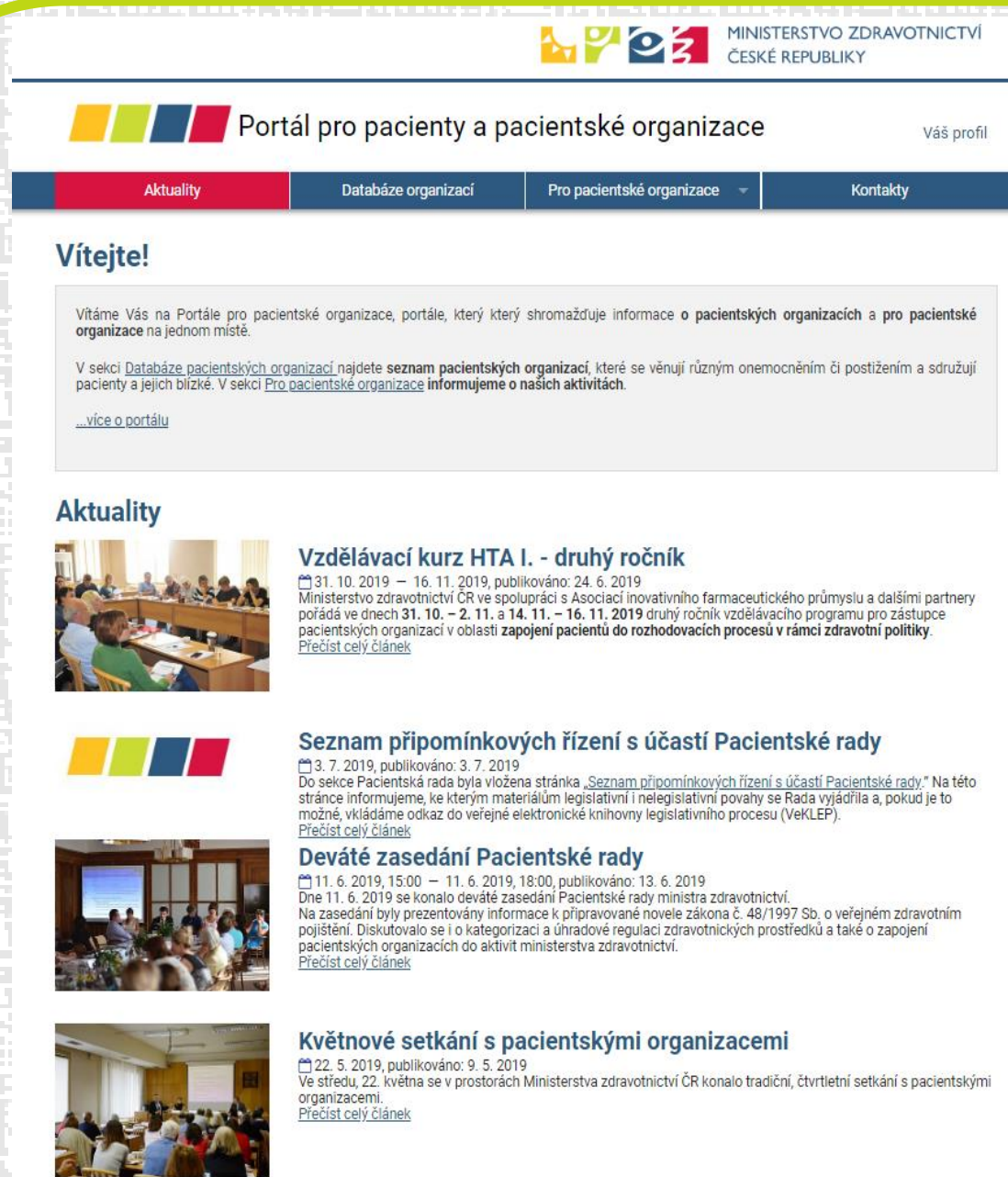


PATIENT ORGANISATIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic plays an active role in supporting the systematic involvement of patient organisations in the decision-making processes. As there is no functioning national coalition or umbrella organisation representing patient organisations to date, the ministry has set out on a unique journey to involve patient representatives and generally strengthen the patient sector as to have a partner for the important discussions about the future of healthcare.



In 2015, the ministry started organizing **quarterly events** for representatives of patient organizations, where it informs about current plans and presents guests from different areas of the healthcare system. This also serves as a platform where patient organisations network among themselves and have a chance to meet other stakeholders – be it for example representatives of the national drug control authority, insurance companies or medical associations.



To raise the awareness of the patient involvement activities the ministry created a **website** dedicated to informing about the Patient Council and its working groups as well as about the seminars and other events it organizes. A part of the website also serves as a **directory** of patient organisations in the Czech Republic. At the moment there are about two hundred organisations listed on the website.

The ministry is also working on **educating** patient representatives in important areas of healthcare to enable them to effectively represent themselves in dealings with other stakeholders. To ensure the independence and impartiality of the information patient representatives receive, ministry cooperates with academia, medical associations and industry. The latest 6-day module was focused on joint HTA and the role of patients in this process.

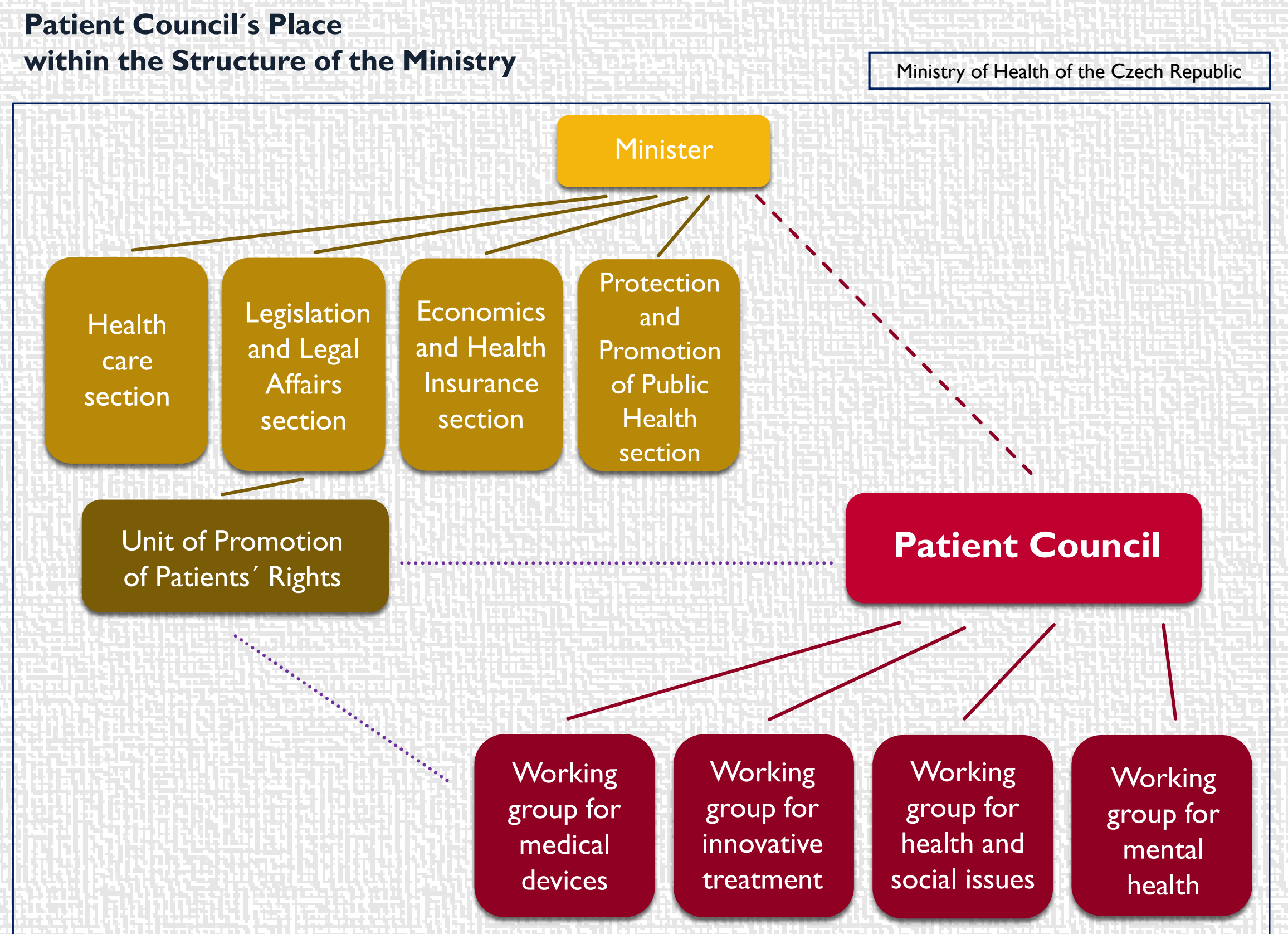


The next step in the area of education and training is the creation of the **Patient Hub**: physical and online space for seminars, conferences and e-learning tools for patient organisations and patients. It should also serve as a co-working and networking space. The secondary role of this project is to promote health literacy among the population.

None of the above mentioned activities would be possible without the establishment of a new unit at the ministry. The **Unit of Promotion of Patients' Rights** is the leading expert body on patient involvement in the Czech Republic. It also serves as the secretariat of the Patient Council. The mission of this unit is to strengthen the sector of patient organisations to the point where they are on equal footing with the other stakeholders in healthcare and can effectively represent themselves.

2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

This broad platform also served as a base for the **Patient Council**, which was established in 2017. Its main purpose is to represent the patient voice at the ministry.

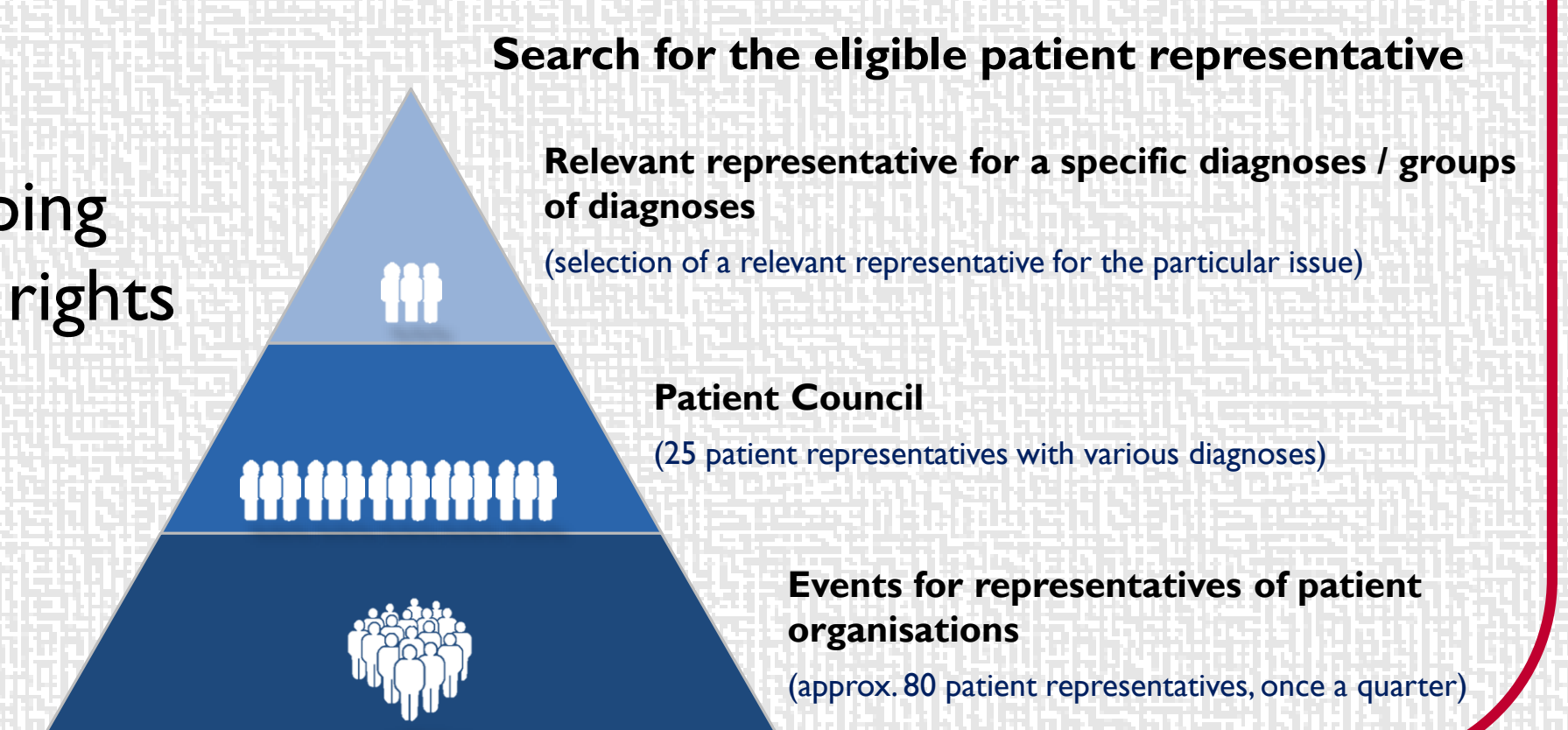


The Patient Council is an advisory body to the minister, it consists of 25 members and meets at least 4 times a year. Its members can comment on legislation that is drafted at the ministry and can set up working groups that deal with specific issues such as the introduction of innovative drugs to the market, medical devices or the topic of mental health.

The ministry also places a high importance on the representation of different disease areas in the make up of the Patient Council. Members of the Council are representatives of patient organisations serving people with the most common NCDs, CDs, but also for those with rare diseases.

The process of nomination of the members of the Patient Council was rigorous as to ensure the legitimacy of the body. The **main criteria** the patient organizations had to fulfill to be eligible for nomination and final approval were:

- ▶ representativeness
- ▶ activity in the field of helping patients and protecting their rights
- ▶ independence



To date the Patient Council has commented on **41** documents and draft legislation, set up **5** working groups of its own and has representatives in **13** working groups of the ministry.

