



Endorsers

The Framing Paper and Joint Statement were drafted by the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) group, in partnership with various stakeholders and as part of the 2018 Thematic Network Program on the EU Health Policy Platform of the European Commission.



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SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN

FRAMING PAPER SUMMARY

It is the goal of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) group to achieve improved care and pain management across the EU to reduce the societal impact of the disease, which touches upon all aspects of life.



1 in 5 people experience chronic pain

In Europe, more than **150 million** people suffer from chronic pain

That's more than the population of Germany and France combined.



Chronic pain costs the EU **€240 billion** a year



The 'Societal Impact of Pain' (SIP) platform is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the European Pain Federation EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), which aims to raise awareness of pain and change pain policies. The platform provides opportunities for discussion for health care professionals, pain advocacy groups, politicians, healthcare insurance providers, representatives of health authorities, regulators, and budget holders. The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of EFIC and the strategic direction of the project is defined by both partners. The pharmaceutical companies Grünenthal GmbH and Pfizer are the main sponsors of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform.

What are we calling for?

The SIP Platform is calling on the European Commission, Member States and civil society to come together to reduce the societal impact of pain in the EU.

We have highlighted four areas:

Indicators

The problem:

There is currently a data gap in how we measure and monitor the societal impact of pain across the EU.

Our recommendations:

- The European Commission address the gap in the European Core Health Indicators to include chronic pain
- The European Commission and the OECD include pain as a key indicator in their [Health at a Glance](#) report
- The European Commission repeat and broaden their 2006 Health Eurobarometer, including questions on musculoskeletal pain
- Member states adopt the updated pain disease classification ICD-11

Our commitment

- Civil society contribute to the implementation of the new the WHO 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) that includes chronic pain as a separate entry
- Healthcare professionals and patients provide their expertise and perspective in the creation of patient- relevant indicators

Research

The problem:

Funding for pain research is inconsistent on EU and Member State levels. Currently, there is also not enough total funding into pain research in Europe to adequately meet the needs of patients.

Our recommendations:

- Member States and EP support the resource allocation in the legislative process
- The European Commission support the development of pain centres of excellence across Europe and encourage a network for these centres
- The European Commission include pain as a topic for its mission-oriented research, such as in Horizon Europe

Our commitment

- Industry representatives, research institutions, healthcare professionals and patient groups build on the achievements of public private research partnerships such as Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) with the aim of translating them in real word applications
- Patient groups and healthcare professionals foster the dissemination of research outcomes to their community and support a patient-led approach to research

Education

The problem:

Pain medicine is not taught as a dedicated subject in most European academic systems, and not widely known in the broader community.

Our recommendations:

- The European Commission support national governments in the coordination of best practice
- The European Commission and Parliament as well as Member States support awareness raising activities, educating a wide range of stakeholders about pain management
- The European Commission and Member states take pain management into account in its planning of future health workforce
- Member States promote wider access to pain education within HCP education

Our commitment

- Civil society, healthcare professionals and patient groups share best practices on pain education for patients, healthcare professionals, politicians and the broader community
- Civil society, healthcare professionals and patient groups continue working on their educational programs and projects targeted to these audiences

Employment

The problem:

Chronic pain is the number one reason for workplace absenteeism and disability in the EU.

Our recommendations:

- The European Commission and Member States work together to promote policies that reflect the link between pain and employment
- The European Commission support projects like CHRODIS-Plus for the inclusion of pain into all training tools
- The European Commission and Member states take into account the recommendations from the PATHWAYS project when reviewing current strategies on chronic disease and employment policies

Our commitment

- Civil society, healthcare professionals, patient groups and industry representatives share best practice on flexible work environment for people living with pain and data gathered through surveys on employment and chronic pain to contribute to evidence-based policy making

■ What can you do about it?

It will take everyone working together to solve a problem this big. To stay involved, become a member of the SIP Stakeholder Group and endorse the SIP Joint Statement.

- Contact: sip@efic.org

- Keep informed via www.sip-platform.eu and subscribe for the SIP Newsletter there