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38th EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER



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Dear Reader,

We hope you are well and are enjoying the spring blossom after a long winter.

On the 3rd May 2022, the European Commission published a proposal to create the European Health Data Space (EHDS), a major development for the EU's digital health policy. The EHDS will enhance access and use of health data for research, innovation, public health, and policy-making, and will promote safe exchange of patients' data and citizens' control over their health data.

SIP [responded](#) to the European Commission's Health Data Space Roadmap, and called for the implementation of the ICD-11 definition of pain throughout healthcare systems. The implementation of ICD-11 will help improve the analysis of health systems performance, and provide the research community with data to facilitate further clinical research. This recommendation was a part of SIP's [Digital Health Position Paper](#), which was launched on the 31st of March 2022 at SIP's virtual multi-stakeholder event entitled "[How can digitalising health services reduce the societal impact of pain?](#)"

The 12th congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC took place 27-30 April in Dublin, Ireland. The theme of the congress was "Targeting Pain and its Comorbidities in the Digital Age", and around 2000 attendees participated either in person on-site or via the virtual

platform. It was wonderful to finally be able to meet in person again after 18 months since the last in-person opportunity for the European pain community. At the congress SIP hosted a [workshop](#) related to its policy recommendations for cancer-related pain. Following the workshop, a call to action was made to ensure that the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan reflects the EFIC Standards, SIP's Recommendations, and patient perspectives when being implemented across European Member States. SIP also took the opportunity to host a hybrid [meeting](#) at the congress, where attendees participated in an active discussion about SIP and its activities, shared knowledge from the SIP National Platforms, and discussed the future of SIP.

During the rest of 2022, SIP will be working on a new European Road Map Monitor survey, that builds on the European Road Map Monitor from 2019. The survey aims to give an understanding of the development of national pain guidelines and action plans over the last three years. The results are expected to be made available by the end of 2022.

The [second National Platform call](#) of the year took place 11th May, where attendees had the opportunity to hear the latest updates on the EU Health Data Space, discuss the European Road Map Monitor update, and discuss SIP's policy and advocacy plans for ICD-11 and ICF.

Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) thanks all the applicants to the Brain, Mind and Pain (BMP) Grant. The third edition of the BMP Grant aims to explore and provide practical solutions for people living with pain, and struggling with healthy sleep. In June the BMP Grant Jury will deliberate on the applications. We look forward to congratulating the winner(s) in early July. Finally, please remember to visit our website, and follow us on our social media channels so you do not miss anything! You can also keep up to date with SIP's future activities by checking out our events section of our website.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued collaboration and support.

We wish you a great summer.

Best wishes,

Dr. Brona Fullen, President of European Pain Federation EFIC &
Ms. Deirdre Ryan, President of Pain Alliance Europe (PAE)

European Week Against Cancer



SIP SUPPORTS THE EUROPEAN WEEK AGAINST CANCER

European Week Against Cancer (EWAC) takes place every year 25-31 May, and aims to raise awareness on cancer prevention, access to treatment, and support for patients and cancer survivors. This year the #EWAC22 campaign will focus on the role that each individual has in moving forward with the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

SIP is actively advocating on [Cancer Pain Policy](#) and has worked on several activities related to cancer and pain:

- SIP responded to the two public consultations on the Roadmap for the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, helped identify priority areas, and set the scope for future actions.
- In September 2020, SIP published its [Position Paper on Cancer Pain Policy](#). SIP emphasised the importance of addressing pain management from a multi-professional perspective, and highlighted the importance of improving quality of life for patients and survivors, as well as improving palliative care and overall treatments.

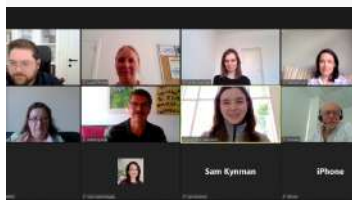
- SIP's latest activity around cancer pain was in April 2022, where it hosted a workshop related to its policy recommendations for cancer-related pain at the 2022 European Pain Federation Congress in Dublin, Ireland. Following the workshop, a call to action was made to ensure the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan reflects the EFIC Standards, SIP's Recommendations, and patient perspectives when being implemented across European Member States.

SIP will continue to advocate on cancer and pain in the future, and wishes all a great #EWAC22.

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THE SECOND SIP NATIONAL PLATFORM CALL OF 2022 TOOK PLACE ON 11TH MAY

The second SIP National Platform call for 2022 took place last week on the 11th of May. During the meeting, participants had the opportunity to:



- Hear about SIP's cancer workshop and informal meeting at the EFIC 2022 congress in Dublin, Ireland;
- Hear latest updates on the EU Health Data Space;
- Listen to the RMWG strategy plan and;
- Discuss SIP's policy and advocacy plans for ICD-11 and ICF.



The next SIP National Platform call will be on 8 September 2022 at 14h00-16h00 CEST.

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SIP LAUNCHES NEW EUROPEAN ROAD MAP MONITOR SURVEY FOR 2022

The Societal Impact of Pain has launched a new European Road Map Monitor survey to gain an understanding of the development (and evolution) of national pain guidelines and action plans over the least three years, and to reflect on the status of policies supporting the updated priorities of the Societal Impact of Pain platform.

EUROPEAN ROAD MAP MONITOR 2022



The survey addresses a broad range of stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, patient organisations involved in pain, and national governments.



The survey builds on the [European Road Map Monitor 2019](#), and the results will be made available later in 2022.

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THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN HOSTED A



WORKSHOP ON CANCER-RELATED PAIN AT #EFIC2022



On the 27th of April, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) hosted a workshop related to its policy recommendations for cancer-related pain at the 2022 European Pain Federation Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

Attendees heard from Uri Hochberg on the EFIC Standards for Cancer-related Pain in Europe, from Jamie Wilkinson who presented SIP's cancer-related pain policy recommendations and advocacy work, and Deidre Ryan who spoke about bridging the gap from patient experience to advocacy for national implementation of cancer pain policies.

Following the workshop, a call to action was made ensure the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan reflects the EFIC Standards, SIP's Recommendations, and patient perspectives when being implemented across European Member States. To learn more, please see our cancer pain policy [webpage](#).

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THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN MET AT #EFIC2022



The 27th of April, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) held a hybrid meeting at the European Pain Federation congress in Dublin, Ireland. Attendees participated in an active discussion about SIP and its activities, shared knowledge from the SIP National Platforms, and discussed the future of SIP.



In the future SIP will work towards involving the European Pain Federation (EFIC) Councillors more and creating a timeline with National Platforms activities so it is easier to see what the different platforms work with and have achieved.

SIP welcomes new National Platforms and will be working on the interest shown from colleagues from Germany, Poland, and Romania.

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THE EVENT REPORT FROM SIP'S DIGITAL HEALTH EVENT IS NOW AVAILABLE!



On 31st March 2022, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform, hosted a multi-stakeholder virtual event with over 100 registrants entitled "How can digitalising health services reduce the societal impact of pain?" The event was supported by MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland); and MEP Susana Solís Pérez (Renew, Spain).

During the event, speakers and participants discussed the recommendations from SIP's Position Paper on Digital Health: Pain Assessment and Quality Indicators, which highlighted the importance of European institutions and national governments taking appropriate actions in the area of digital health

and pain. The aim of this event was to identify gaps in digital health policies for people living with pain, and to provide recommendations for an effective implementation.

Read the event report [here](#).

SIP PRESENTS ITS POSITION PAPER ON DIGITAL HEALTH

The Societal Impact of Pain SIP has published its position paper on Digital Health. The paper highlights the need for action by European Institutions and National Governments in the area of digital health and pain.

Below the key recommendations of our Position Paper:

SIP calls upon EU and national policymakers to:

- Ensure effective implementation of ICD-11 by all Member States to contribute to the digitalisation of healthcare services, as these are complementary and can support each other
- Support the development and implementation of patient and clinician-friendly, interoperable, and validated digital technologies for pain assessment
- Establish pain and pain-related functioning as a quality indicator in the development of instruments of pain assessment via the use of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs)
- Enhance the availability of, and the equal access to hybrid (face-to-face and digital) formats of pain management
- Enable the use of interoperable, standardised, secure digital health data registries, repositories, and records to facilitate exchange of cross border pain assessment data
- Allocate adequate funding to the development of translational AI and ML research in pain and pain-related functioning
- Allocate adequate funding and foster the infrastructure for digital and health literacy for all stakeholders, including clinicians and patients
- Ensure the subjective experience of pain remains an integral part of the assessment and management of pain
- Promote the exchange of best practices in digital pain and pain-related functioning assessment and management in Europe in an open format, and establish standards to ensure quality, reliable and evidence-based practices and information are shared to all

Read the full paper [here](#).





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QUESTIONS? NEED SUPPORT? WISH TO ENDORSE OR TO PUBLISH ON SIP PLATFORM?

In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's contents, please contact Angela Cano Palomares: angela.palomares@efic.org.

In case you would like to endorse the SIP Platform or to publish news on the SIP Website, please contact: sip@efic.org

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Angela Cano Palomares (Website Editor): sip@efic.org

Contact Emilia Kosińska (PAE EU Affairs Coordinator) for patient-focused inquiries at info@pae-eu.eu

IMPRINT

The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of the European Pain Federation (EFIC®).

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