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33rd EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER



Dear reader,

I hope that you are well as we begin to see some re-opening of society.

As we enter a new phase of recovery and gradual return to “a new normal”, European Union (EU) leaders, European institutions, social partners, and civil society representatives recently reinforced their commitment to the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) at the [Porto Social Summit](#) in May 2021. Organised under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, delegates co-signed the [Porto Social Commitment](#) which includes actions relating to employment policy. SIP, in 2020 endorsed the [implementation of the Social Pillar](#), and at the beginning of March, responded to the European Commission’s consultation on the [Strategic Framework 2021-2027 for Health and Safety at Work in the EU](#). This maps well with one of SIPs priorities for 2021, which is to focus on influencing employment-related policies in line with our [long-term objectives](#). (Read more about our position paper on workplace integration and adaptation below).

On a related note, SIP recently became partners of **EU-OSHA’s Healthy Workplaces - Lighten the Load 2020-2022 campaign**, focusing on work-related musculoskeletal diseases. EU-OSHA is the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health, and aims to make European workplaces safer, healthier, and more productive. You can find more information on the objectives of the campaign, why SIP joined it, and how you can become involved [here](#).

In March this year, SIP held a virtual meeting entitled “**Ensuring Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan addresses cancer pain in quality of life, survivorship, and palliative care**”, to identify the gaps in the [Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan \(EBCP\)](#) related to cancer pain. The meeting was a success, with SIP partner organisations and stakeholders agreeing on several **recommendations to ensure the effective implementation of the EBCP related to quality of life, survivorship, and palliative care**. You can read them [here](#). To ensure we can continue contributing to the implementation of the EBCP, SIP recently joined the European Commission’s Stakeholder Contact Group for the EBCP.

At the beginning of May, SIP held the second [National Platforms call \(NPC\)](#) of the year where participants had an in-depth discussion of their experiences in pain patient care pathways. Participants also had the opportunity to hear the results of the EFIC survey on the effects of COVID-19 on pain management throughout Europe, as well as the PAE survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Europeans with Chronic Pain. A follow-up working group is currently being formed to combine the results, produce joint recommendations, create a joint brochure, and work on a joint publication on this topic.

Related to surveys, Pain Alliance Europe has launched a new survey on “**Diagnostics and Treatments**”. This is a second version of the one conducted in [2017](#). It will compare the responses from four years ago with the situation now, to see if there have been improvements over the past four years. **You have time until 30 of May to complete it.** Take it [here](#).

Over the coming months, SIP will be working on preparing two position papers: one on workplace integration and adaptation, and another on digital health (pain measurement and quality indicators). We invite SIP National Platforms to provide input to these position papers, so please contact your National Platform leaders if you would like to be involved.

On the 23rd of June, PAE President Joop van Griensven, will finish his mandate. The SIP Team would like to thank Joop for his hard work and contributions to SIP over the years. SIP would also like to welcome the PAE President-Candidate, Deirdre Ryan, who we look forward to working with in the future!

Remember to follow us on our [website](#) and social media channels so you don't miss anything! You can also keep up to date with SIP's upcoming activities by checking out our [events section](#).

Many thanks for your continued support and stay safe.

Best wishes,

**Dr. Brona Fullen, President of European Pain Federation EFIC &
Mr. Joop van Griensven, President of Pain Alliance Europe (PAE)**

The 2nd SIP National Platforms Call of 2021 took place on 6th of May



In the May SIP National Platforms Call (NPC), participants began with an in-depth “plenary discussion” of their different national experiences in pain patient care pathways. Colleagues agreed to hold a themed plenary discussion in all future NPCs. Colleagues also had the opportunity to hear the results of two important surveys from EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe. The first one regarding the effects of COVID-19 on pain management throughout Europe, the second one on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Europeans with Chronic Pain. A follow-up working group is currently being formed to combine the results, produce joint recommendations, create a joint brochure, and work on a joint publication on this topic.



SIP Virtual Cancer Pain Event: report available

On the 2nd of March 2021, SIP held a virtual event to discuss and identify gaps in [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) related to cancer pain. Read more in the event report and recommendations [here](#).



SIP responded to the EU Commission's consultation on the strategic framework 2021-2027 for Health & Safety at work

SIP called for the European Commission to adopt key recommendations such as the recognition of chronic pain individuals as a risk group in the context of health and safety at work. Read all the recommendations [here](#).





Complete the Pain Alliance Europe 2021 Diagnostics and Treatment Survey by 30 May 2021

Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) invites everyone with chronic pain or their caregivers to complete [this brief survey on diagnosis and treatment](#). The survey is available in 14 languages, complete it [now!](#)



The results of the PAE in depth survey on COVID-19 and chronic pain are now available

The top three psychological problems caused by the pandemic are anxiety, worry, and insomnia. Read the full survey report [here](#).



EFIC survey on the effects of COVID-19 on pain management throughout Europe

The objectives of this study (April 2020) were to explore how COVID-19 has affected pain management services in Europe. More than a third of respondents were not able to conduct their pain clinics, and more than half of respondents experienced over a 50% reduction in the volume of patients in their pain clinics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A follow-up working group is currently being created to combine the results with [PAE's survey](#), produce recommendations, create a joint brochure, and work on a joint publication on this topic. Read the results of the survey [here](#).



Discover how SIP supports the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-2022

SIP joined this campaign as one of our four [long-term objectives](#) is to initiate policies addressing the impact of pain on employment and include pain in relevant existing initiatives. Contact the SIP office for more information on how to get involved in this campaign!



EU-OSHA published a report on "Working with chronic MSDs - good practice advice"

The report provides practical advice on issues related to working with a chronic musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), and what can be done to support individuals who have developed a chronic MSD to enable them to continue working.



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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 Sam Kynman, Executive Director European Pain Federation EFIC sam.kynman@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 Jamie Wilkinson (Website Editor): sip@efic.org

Contact Mariana Branco (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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Further information can be found on the [imprint](#)

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