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36th EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER



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Dear Reader,

As 2021 draws to a close, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) would like to thank you for your continued support. The COVID-19 pandemic still has a significant impact on our daily lives, in particular, for healthcare professionals and patients living with chronic pain. The pandemic has had a major impact on the work environment in terms of emerging challenges of digital work and helping chronic pain people to return to work after COVID.

Speaking on the theme of employment at the European Union (EU) level, on the 1st December 2021, the [Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) held an event entitled “[The Future is Here: Occupational Safety and Health Perspective](#)”. The conference was an opportunity to discuss the advantages and the traps of distance working, the right to switch off, and privacy.

As you know, influencing employment-related policies is one of SIP's priorities for 2021/22 and, in June this year, SIP published its [position paper on Workplace Integration and Adaptation](#). The paper highlights the need for action by European Institutions, national governments, and employers to address employment and integration issues for individuals with pain across Europe. Following up this publication, SIP held a multi-stakeholder online event hosted by MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, Malta) and MEP Radka Maxová (S&D, Czechia) to discuss the paper's recommendations in more detail. The event, entitled "**What can be done to support a healthy and productive European workforce and society?**", aimed to identify gaps in employment policies for people living with disabilities and pain, and to provide recommendations for an effective integration and adaptation of the working environment, so these people can remain in, or return to work. SIP organised this event in response to the European Institutions' commitment to the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights' Action Plan](#), the [EU Health and Safety Strategic Framework 2021-2027](#), and the [EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#). **Read the report [here](#).**

In the last part of 2021, SIP also held two other important meetings. In November 2021 we held the [SIP Annual Stakeholder Forum meeting](#). The Stakeholder Forum brings together National Platforms, the multi-disciplinary SIP stakeholder family, and other organisations with an interest in pain from various sectors. The Stakeholder Forum meets annually, co-develops the strategy of SIP, and identifies specific objectives and policy goals for the following year. Read the report of the meeting [here](#).

The second meeting was the [last SIP National Call of 2021, which took place on 25th November 2021](#). The call was an opportunity to welcome the new SIP Belgium colleague and discuss SIP's priorities for 2022. SIP's 2022 policy and advocacy activities will be on [ICD-11](#) and [ICF](#) implementation, workplace integration and adaptation, and pain and digital health. Read the minutes of the call [here](#).

Along with all these activities, SIP continued its external engagement with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). On 1st December 2021 SIP met virtually with MEP Katrin Langensiepen (Greens/EFA, Germany). The meeting was an opportunity for all to discuss areas of shared interest and potential future collaboration.

The SIP National Platforms continue to be active. For example, SIP France participated in a multi-stakeholder event hosted by the French Minister of Solidarity and Health Mr. Olivier Véran with the aim of improving pain management and care in France. Read more about the event [here](#). Also [SIP Portugal held an event in occasion of its National Day Against Pain](#). Last, but not least, [SIP Belgium resumed its activities under new leadership](#).

In other news, SIP partner [Pain Alliance Europe \(PAE\) announced that the BMP Grant is now open for applications!](#) The BMP Grant aims to support projects that will help improve the quality of life of people living with brain, mind, and pain conditions. The theme of the third edition of the BMP Grant is prevention and self-management. Have a look [here](#) and apply before the end of March 2022!

In other relevant news the [EFIC health literacy campaign "Plain Talking" has been selected by Brian Mind and Pain \(BMP\) as a best practice](#) in the area of access to treatment, service and support. Learn more about the campaign [here](#).

Ms. Mariana Branco, EU Affairs Coordinator for Pain Alliance Europe, is leaving us for new challenges. Mariana joined us in 2019, and we thank her for her significant contribution over the past two years and wish her well for the future.

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 the [events section](#) of our website.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued collaboration and support. We wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe, and healthy holiday and new year.

Best wishes,

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



Report Available - SIP Virtual Event: "What can be done to support a healthy and productive European Workforce and Society?"



SIP held a virtual event on the 28th of October 2021 on pain and workplace integration and adaptation. The online event was hosted by MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, Malta) and MEP Radka MAXOVÁ (S&D, Czechia) to discuss the [SIP position paper on Integration and Adaptation](#). Read the recommendations [here](#).



SIP presented its position paper on Workplace Integration and Adaptation



The paper highlights the need for action by European Institutions, national governments, and employers to support a healthy and productive European workforce and society.



The 2021 SIP Stakeholder Forum (SF) took place on 9th November 2021



The SIP team welcomed European and National colleagues to review recent SIP activities and achievements, and to discuss SIP's 2022 aspirations and longer-term priorities.



SIP France: Round Table meeting in Paris on 18th October 2021



On the occasion of World Pain Day (18th October 2021), SIP France participated in an event with representatives from the healthcare professions, patient associations, politicians, and institutions to address a common objective: To improve pain management and care in France.



SIP Portugal – Event Report: Portuguese National Day Against Pain



The Executive Committee of the national platform SIP PT organised an online and face-to-face event to commemorate the National Day against Pain, on October 16th 2021. Read the report [here](#).



SIP Belgium under new leadership

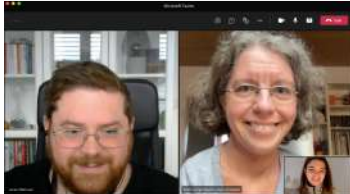


Omer Vanhaute, involved at different levels with various policy initiatives in chronic pain since 2009, is planning to take the initiative to re-activate SIP in Belgium. The goal is to invite relevant stakeholders and explore the possibilities for a representative forum.



The fourth SIP National Platform Call of 2021 took place on 25th November 2021

In this SIP National Platform Call, participants had the opportunity to hear updates on [ICD-11 implementation](#) and share their updates on SIP at national level.



SIP met virtually with MEP Katrin Langensiepen

On the 1st of December 2021, the SIP team met online with Katrin Langensiepen (Greens/EFA, Germany). The team spoke about SIP's 2020-21 Policy Priorities, SIP's long-term priorities, the [SIP position paper on Workplace Integration and Adaptation](#) and the recommendations from the 28th October event on employment and pain.



Best Practices in Brain, Mind and Pain 2021

The 'Plain Talking' health literacy campaign ran by the European Pain Federation EFIC has been selected as best practices in the area of access to treatment, service and support. 'Plain Talking' is targeted at clinicians and people living with pain. Read more about the campaign [here](#).



3rd Edition of the Brain, Mind and Pain (BMP) Grant – Application is now open!

The BMP Grant aims to support projects that will help improve the quality of life of people living with brain, mind, and pain conditions. The theme of the third edition of the BMP Grant is prevention and self-management. The BMP Grant fund for the third edition totals 60,000 EUR. The application period runs until the end of March 2022.



PAE members-only webinar “Transforming Research Data Into Advocacy Campaigns: How To Amplify The Voices Of People In Chronic Pain”

On 18th November 2021, PAE hosted a members-only webinar, “Transforming Research Data Into Advocacy Campaigns: How To Amplify The Voices Of People In Chronic Pain”, to teach their members how to advocate effectively at the national level. The proposed training aims to ensure that our members understand the latest developments at EU level and are able to speak up in a timely manner with a coherent and consistent message.



New evidence on the link between psychosocial factors and musculoskeletal disorders





Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) can be caused by physical factors, such as prolonged sitting and handling loads. However, the importance of psychosocial factors, such as low autonomy and poor communication at work, in the development of MSDs should not be underestimated. Read the new literature review [here](#).

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In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's contents, please contact Jamie Wilkinson, Project Manager, Societal Impact of Pain Platform, jamie.wilkinson@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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