

Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform Annual Report 2023

Introduction

The below report is provided to demonstrate the activities and impact of the [Societal Impact of Pain \(SIP\) platform](#). While the impact of advocacy is often difficult to quantify, due to the long-term nature of relationship building and the policy process, this report can go some way to demonstrating real impact. The report shows key activities, a written qualitative analysis, as well as some key performance metrics.

Key Policy Priorities in 2022-2023

- Cancer Pain Policy (targeting the EU Beating Cancer Plan)
- Pain and Digital Medicine (targeting the EU Health Data Space)
- International Classification of Diseases – 11th Revision (ICD-11) (targeting the EU Health Data Space)
- Pain and Mental Health (targeting the EU Mental Health Strategy)
- Access to Treatment – The Burden of Pain

Key Activities in 2022-2023

- Response to the European Commission's European Health Data Space (EHDS) Roadmap and Public Consultation
- Digital Health Position Paper Launch Event and Recommendations
- Digital Health Position Paper: Pain and Quality Indicators
- SIP Stakeholder Forum 2022 and Report
- Stakeholder Forum Memorandum of Understanding Expansion
- SIP Road Map Monitor Report
- Pain in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11): A SIP Event
- Response to the European Commission's EU Mental Health Strategy Roadmap and Public Consultation
- SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health
- SIP ICD-11 Position Paper
- Pain and Mental Health: A Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Event – European Parliament
- Renovation of EU-OSHA Partnership
- Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain

Impact of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform on Pain Policy?

In late 2021, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform set bi-annual policy priorities and objectives for 2022

and 2023. Therefore, in the last two years, SIP has grown substantially, with the systematic involvement of scientific expert-review in the development and launch of SIP Position Papers; the development of multi-stakeholder policy events; continued collaboration with the European Union Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA); as well as the strengthening and growth of the SIP Stakeholder Forum and the SIP National Platforms, placing both at the centre of driving the policy activities and direction of SIP annually. All without losing sight of key health EU policy priorities and initiatives relevant to SIP core objectives.

Additionally, SIP has continued to expand and nurture existing, as well as new relationships with European policymakers and institutions, and the SIP Stakeholder Forum and network of sibling organisations, by doing in-person meetings and events at the European Parliament.

SIP has strengthened and grown substantially its online presence, showcasing all SIP activities and events through its different communications channels, such as [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Further, SIP has also launched a new, more user-friendly [website](#). The quarterly SIP [Newsletter](#) continues to be a great success in terms of opening rates, and so it is SIP's participation in different advocacy and awareness [campaigns](#).

Following the [SIP Road Map Monitor Report](#), a thorough analysis on the status of different European countries on National Health Frameworks of Pain, Pain as a Quality Indicator, Pain Research, Pain in Employment and Pain Education, and the ICD-11 related event in late 2022 entitled 'Pain in the International Classification of diseases: [A SIP Event](#)', where experts in the field discussed ICD-11 from different points of view, SIP met, at the beginning of 2023, with the ENVI European Health Data Space (EHDS) Rapporteur MEP Sokol and his office, to ensure the File addressed the needs of the pain community. More specifically, SIP successfully included in the European Health Data Space (EHDS) Draft Report, a reference to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). Additionally, SIP also successfully included several Amendments on the same topic, some of which, have already passed the Compromise Amendments process. The vote on the ENVI and LIBE Committees will take place on 25th October 2023 and the Plenary vote on 20th November 2023. SIP remains confident that the Amendments will make it to the final vote.

On the other hand, in 2023, SIP also focused on Pain and Mental Health, targeting the [European Mental Health Strategy](#) (providing a response to the Roadmap and Consultation launched by the European Commission) and, ahead of its launch, SIP published a [Joint Statement on Pain and Mental](#) on the close link between both matters, in collaboration with ten different organisations, working in the field of pain, pain-related or mental health policies. The nine Recommendations in such document, call upon EU and national policy makers to ensure a range of aspects related to pain and mental health are acknowledged in health policy. Further, and ahead of the launch of the Mental Health Report, by the newly created health sub-committee of the European Parliament, SANT (non-legislative), SIP reached out to fourteen different Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), to ensure the nine key Recommendations were taken into consideration during the drafting process. More importantly, both the Rapporteur and the Shadow Rapporteur, who reached out to SIP directly, confirmed the Recommendations would be taken into consideration. Once the [SANT Draft Report on Mental Health](#) was published, SIP did a second round of engagements and sent Amendments to all those MEPs that had received and confirmed the first round. As a result, SIP managed to successfully include twenty-four Amendments. The Amendments documents can be found [here](#).

To continue the activities on pain and mental health, SIP organised an [in-person event](#) at the European

Parliament, on World Mental Health Day, 10th October, to politically launch the SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health. The event was hosted by MEP Vind (S&D) and MEP Sokol (EPP). However, MEP Montserrat (EPP), and MEP Saliba (S&D) were also at the event and part of the roster of speakers. Additionally, representatives from the European Psychiatric Association, the European Federation of Neurological Associations, the Europe Region World Physiotherapy, the European Cancer Organisation, the Global Alliance of Mental Health Illness Advocacy Networks, along with experts in the field from all over Europe, explored the close relationship between pain and mental health, the quality of and access to safe pain management, the link between pain, mental health and employment, and how can all be integrated into mental health policies. The Report below, clearly outlines what the event focused on.

Additionally, SIP, via EFIC being a member, continues to be involved in two EU4Health projects lead by the European Cancer Organisation (ECO): INTERACT-EUROPE (Inter-speciality training programme) and SMART-CARE (cancer survivors electronic smart card), both are well underway. Moreover, SIP is part of the European Commission Beating Cancer Plan Stakeholder Group in the EU Policy Platform. Further, SIP continues to be part of the thematic group 'Quality of Life' of the Stakeholder Contact Group on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, where input is provided to the Commission on the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission, in areas under the remit of the thematic group.

SIP's efforts in workplace integration and adaptation policy lead to the public recognition of our activities as 'best-practices' from EU-OSHA, and close collaboration with the Agency, and the participation of SIP in a parallel session at the November 2022 [EU-OSHA Summit](#) in Bilbao. Furthermore, SIP has now renewed its partnership with the Agency and will be a collaborator in their 2023-2025 campaign focused on safe and healthy work in the digital age.

As a result of the SIP National Platform meetings, the 2023 SIP Stakeholder Forum meeting, SIP will be continue to focus in 2024 on Pain and Digital Health, ICD-11, Pain and Mental Health and Access to Treatment. However, given that in 2024 European Elections will take place, SIP will monitor the upcoming EU Agenda to remain active on other policy of interest to the pain community.

Key Performance Metrics

The metrics below provide an insight into how SIP is performing. The metrics relate to the calendar year 2021-2022. We have selected those which we believe are most indicative of quality work and real impact.

1. Number of Policy Papers / Positions/ Resources Published: 5

This refers to SIP's multistakeholder, multidisciplinary, scientifically-based policy recommendations. These are the highest value substantial activities of the project. Additionally, SIP's contributions to other organisations' policy publications, and responses to public consultations are also listed.

- Response to European Commission Roadmap and Public Consultation for the European Health Data Space.
- SIP Position Paper on Digital Health: Pain as a Quality Indicators.
- SIP Road Map Monitor Report.
- Response to the European Commission Roadmap and Public Consultation for the European Mental Health Strategy

- SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health
- SIP Position Paper on ICD-11
- Book of Evidence – The Burden of Pain (Under development)

2. Number of Engagements with Political Stakeholders: 19

This refers to engagements with political representatives; renewing, strengthening, or establishing new relationships with key policy makers and institutions related to SIP's core objectives and positions.

- MEP Dolors MONTSERRAT (EPP, Spain)
- MEP Sipra PIETIKAINEN (EPP, Finland)
- MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, Malta)
- MEP Radka MAXOVÁ (S&D, Czechia)
- MEP Cyrus ENGERER (S&D, Malta)
- MEP Tomislav SOKOL (EPP, Croatia)
- MEP Bartosz ARLUKOWICZ (EPP, Poland)
- MEP Margarita de la PISA (ECR, Spain)
- MEP Cristian-Silviu BUSOI (EPP, Romania)
- MEP Sara CERDAS (S&D, Portugal)
- MEP Stelios KYMPOUROPOULOS (EPP, Greece)
- MEP Peter LIESE (EPP, Germany)
- MEP Susana SOLÍS (Renew, Spain)
- MEP Deirdre CLUNE (EPP, Ireland)
- European Commission DG SANTE – B4 Unit
- PERM REPS: Slovenia (Health)
- PERM REP: Czech Republic (Health)
- PERM REP: Spain (Health)
- PERM REP: Belgium (Health)
- EU-OSHA

3. Number of Engagements with other Key Stakeholders Relevant to Pain Policy: 16

This refers to engagements with other influential organisations in the Brussels policy-making sphere:

- European Federation of Neurological Associations EFNA
- European Academy of Neurology EAN
- European Brain Council EBC
- Mental Health Europe MHE
- European Cancer Organisation ECO
- European Psychiatric Association EPA
- European Region of World Physiotherapy ERWCPT
- Active Citizens Network ACN
- European Connected Health Alliance ECHAlliance
- European Migraine and Headache Association EMHA
- European Headache Federation EHF
- GAMIAN-Europe
- Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries COTEC
- Euro Youth Mental Health EYMH
- European Federation of Psychologists Associations EFPA

- European Public Health Association EUPHA

4. Number of Subscribers to SIP Newsletter: 863 (Average unique open rate across all newsletters in 2023 is 32%)

This refers to the subscribers on our mailing list, indicating the 'circulation' of SIP's positions and recommendations, activities, and engagement opportunities. There has been an increase of 2,23% this year, in relation to 2022.

5. Number of Views of the SIP Website and Relevant Pages in 2023: 1366

This refers to the page views of SIP's landing page and SIP's relevant pages in 2023.

- SIP Landing Page: 1,145
- SIP Current Projects: 241
- SIP News – SIP Joint Statement Launch: 118
- SIP News – SIP ICD-11 Position Paper Launch: 93
- About SIP Page: 98
- ICD-11: 218
- Digital Health and Pain: 170
- Cancer and Pain: 119
- Employment and Pain: 53

6. Number of Views of SIP Event Pages in 2022-2023

This refers to the number of views of SIP's Event pages in the year 2022-2023.

- SIP Event on Pain and Mental Health – October 2023: 139
- ICD-11 Event – November 2022: 876
- SIP Stakeholder Forum – October 2022: 90

7. Number of Followers on SIP Social Media Channels: 3.26K (Increase of 4% from 2022)

This refers to the followers on each of our accounts, indicating the size of our audience and the strength of our voice in online discussions.

- Facebook: 626 followers
- Twitter: 1.6K followers
- LinkedIn (page): 1,03K followers
- LinkedIn (group): 6.899K members

Top countries:

- United Kingdom
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Italy
- Portugal
- Belgium
- Germany
- United States
- Denmark
- France

- Switzerland
- Ireland
- Malta

8. Number of SIP National Platforms in Operation: 10 + 3 in Development

This refers to the number of active platforms in existence, demonstrating national level reach and amplification of SIP positions and recommendations, and links to national policymakers and stakeholders.

- Belgium
- Finland
- France
- Ireland
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Sweden (Platform in development)
- UK (Platform in development)
- Poland (Platform in development)

9. SIP National Platform Upcoming/Milestones

This refers to the SIP national platforms milestones or upcoming milestones with a public and multi-stakeholder nature.

- Finland – Webinar on ICD-11 and Access to Pain Treatment in children.
- France – Webinar and pain roundtable.
- Malta – Event in 2023.
- Netherlands – Present at PA!N Congress and development of a multidisciplinary pain care plan.
- Portugal – Webinar on pain and employment, campaign on Portuguese Day Against Pain.
- Spain – Present at SED Congress + webinar on cancer pain.
- Switzerland – Meeting in 2023.

10. SIP Key Achievements

Key Achievements	Explanation
Progressing the roll-out of new WHO coding on chronic pain via EU Legislation: ONGOING	SIP has worked with MEPs to place the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) implementation on the agenda at European level. This has been done via the new EU legislative proposal entitled the European Health Data Space (EHDS), where ICD-11 has been proposed as a standard for interoperability across Europe. Many MEPs have supported this proposal and the Parliament's lead MEP (the 'Rapporteur') included amendments to this end. ICD-11 is considered transformative in how chronic pain conditions are included, to better support patients in navigating the healthcare system.

	<p>The European Parliament EHDS Report was approved by the ENVI and LIBE Committees on November 2023, and ratified in the Plenary on 11th December 2023, and two ICD references passed, one in Article 5 and a second one in Annex 1. The Trialogues will start on 14th December 2023.</p>
<p>SIP Pain and Mental Health Joint Statement: COMPLETED</p>	<p>Ahead of the European Commission launch of the European Mental Health Strategy and under the umbrella of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform, a gathering of ten European professional and patient organisations have developed a Joint Statement on the close link between pain and mental health. The nine recommendations call upon EU and national policy makers to ensure a range of aspects related to pain and mental health are acknowledged in health policy.</p>
<p>Fostering and enhancing Mental Health policies in the EU via European Parliament Report: COMPLETED</p>	<p>SIP has worked with MEPs to place pain and chronic pain at the centre of mental health policies. This has been done via the European Parliament SANT Sub-Committee Report on Mental Health, where pain, chronic pain, the co-occurrence of chronic and mental health conditions, amongst others, were included within the file. The European Parliament ENVI Committee approved the file in November 2023, and ratified in the Plenary on 11th December 2023. This inclusion, not only places pain on the Health Policy Agenda, but it's also a significant milestone for the pain community, placing adequate, multidisciplinary pain treatment at the centre of mental health conditions.</p>