

SIP National Platform Meeting 26th September 2024 Zoom

Attendees

- SIP Team: Liisa Jutila (PAE/SIP), Patrice Forget (EFIC/SIP), Sam Kynman (EFIC/SIP), Angela Cano Palomares (EFIC/SIP), Marta Bartnicka (EFIC/SIP)
- SIP National Platform Representatives.

Welcome and Introductions

- Angela Cano Palomares (**ACP**), from EFIC/SIP, opened the National Platform Call and explained the Agenda of the day.
- Patrice Forget (**PF**), SIP's Chair, introduced himself and introduced Liisa Jutila (**LJ**) (PAE/SIP) as a Board Member of Pain Alliance Europe.
- EFIC Communications and Advocacy trainee, Marta Bartnicka introduced herself to the SIP National Platform Representatives.

The New EU Mandate and SIP 2024 Priorities and Objectives

ACP discussed the importance of the European Commission Political Guidelines for the 2024-2029 term, published by Ursula von der Leyen. **ACP** discussed that the following points from the guidelines were of great interest to SIP:

- The document explicitly addressed pain management as part of the EU's healthcare priorities, marking a significant milestone for EFIC. It highlighted the issue of shortages in critical medicines, including "**painkillers**", making this the first instance where pain is mentioned in a document of such significance. The proposed introduction of a "**Critical Medicines Act**" aims to tackle the reduction of dependencies relating to critical medicines and ingredients.

ACP and **SK** shared that EFIC had sent President von der Leyen a letter seeking clarification on these topics. However, her response indicated that the mention of pain management was not part of a broader strategy, suggesting that no comprehensive plan for pain is forthcoming.

Despite this, both **ACP** and **PF** noted that the inclusion of pain management in the guidelines presents opportunities for SIP to further disseminate its work and policy messages, with the potential to influence relevant files.

SIP National Platforms:

- Denmark: Lars Bye Moeller emphasized that the **reference to painkillers** could be **used to engage politicians** in the issue of pain. He suggested shifting the focus away from opioids, which could serve as a stepping stone to placing pain management more prominently on the political agenda.

The New EU Mandate

Next, **ACP** discussed the Mission Letters for all the new EU Commissioners, published by Ursula von der Leyen on 17th September. The discussion focused on areas within the Letters that could be relevant to EFIC/SIP, as well as the tasks assigned to the prospective Health Commissioner, Olivér Várhelyi from Hungary.

Although the Mission Letters lack substantial detail, the **ACP** identified several opportunities for SIP to get involved. The Letters outline key priorities for the next five years, and the most relevant to EFIC/SIP are as follows:

- Development of a **Critical Medicines Act** to address the shortages of medicines and medical devices and reduce dependency relating to critical medicines and ingredients.
- Development of a **Plan on preventative health**, ensuring a comprehensive approach to health promotion and disease prevention across the life course. Investing in effective prevention measure will reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, helping to lighten the load on healthcare systems and supporting technology.
- Ensuring the implementation of **the Beating Cancer Plan (BCP)** and developing a common approach for other areas of work like, mental health, cardiovascular diseases, degenerative illnesses, autism and other non-communicable diseases.
- Completing the **European Health Data Space (EHDS)**.

2024 SIP Priorities

ACP also outlined SIP's priorities moving forward. The key areas of focus for the first half of 2024 (January–June) included:

- **Digital Health** – identified as a promising area for development.
- **ICD-11** – considered an important priority.
- **Mental Health** – continuing to build on existing efforts.
- **Access to Treatment**.

ACP further discussed the priorities that SIP will continue to work on until the end of the year (2024), specifically:

- **Access to Treatment** – pursued through the Critical Medicines Act.
- **ICD-11** – aligned with the European Health Data Space initiative.
- **Mental Health and Other Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** – addressed through a forthcoming plan similar to the Beating Cancer Plan.
- **Preventative Health** – promoted through the Plan on Preventative Health, with existing SIP materials available for use in this area.

SIP National Platforms:

- France: Gisele Pickering highlighted that **Access to Treatment** is a key concern for EFIC.

SIP Governance Model

ACP kindly reminded attendees to update their SIP National Platform Governance document and plans for 2024-2025, and to send it back to her at angela.palomares@efic.org to ensure the best support in 2024-2025.

2024 SIP Activities – Q3

Further, **ACP** introduced the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and provided an update on the recent meeting held in Brussels, where ICD-11 was discussed.

Following this, **ACP** and **SK** elaborated on the significance of the EHDS for EFIC and SIP, highlighting its potential impact on their ongoing work and priorities.

Digital Health/ICD-11 – European Health Data Space

ACP emphasised that the Joint Text was approved by the European Parliament on 24th April, and the Council of the European Union will do the same in October 2024.

Further, **ACP** suggested that the next steps should include: Aligning with other European organisations that have been positively affected by ICD-11 to develop a common approach/position and get in touch with DG SANTE to follow up with the implementation of EHDS.

- EHDS Follow-up work (i.e. engagement with Health Perm. Reps and policymakers working on the EHDS) - **Completed**
- Development of ICD-11 Leaflet – **Completed**
- Common position with European Organisations and outreach to DG SANTE – **To start shortly**

SIP National Platforms

- Health Ministry/Official outreach: ICD-11 and Digital Health P.P - **Ongoing**
- Translation of ICD-11 Leaflet – **Ongoing**

- Denmark: Lars Bye Moeller shared that he had spoken with Danish authorities regarding the implementation of ICD-11, but many regions expressed doubts about the value of translating it.
- France: Gisele Pickering mentioned plans to collaborate with the French Ministry of Health. She explained that the French Pain Society, with the help of volunteers, would handle the translation of ICD-11.
- Portugal: Maria-Teresa noted that SIP Portugal has been actively working on sending documents and translations, particularly focused on digital health and mental health. These documents include insights on what needs to be addressed in Portugal.

- **LJ** explained that in Finland, the Institute of Health is responsible for overseeing the implementation of ICD-11.

Mental Health

- Develop a valuable resource on mental health and pain: Leaflet on SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health – **Completed**
- Monitor EU Policy on the topic - **Ongoing**
- Letter to the Editor on Pain and Mental Health – **Completed**
- SIP Workshop at EFIC 2025 Lyon on Pain and Mental Health – **Completed**

SIP National Platforms

- Translation of SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health – **Ongoing**
- Translation of Leaflet on SIP Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health – **Ongoing**

Access to Treatment

- Publish SIP Book of Evidence - **Completed**
- Translation of SIP Book of Evidence - **Completed**
- Develop + Publish National Platforms Case Studies - **Ongoing**
- Develop + Publish SIP National Pain Plan Model - **Completed**
- Develop + Publish Leaflet/ Summary on SIP Policy Framework on the Delivery of Care – **Completed**

SIP National Platforms

- Translation of the SIP Policy Framework on the Delivery of Care – **Ongoing**
- Translation of the leaflet/ Summary on SIP Policy Framework on the Delivery of Care - **ongoing**
- Providing Case Studies - **Ongoing**

2024 SIP Activities – Q1 – Q4

EU-OSHA New Campaign: Safe & Healthy Work in the Digital Age

Raise awareness about the impact of new technologies on work and workplaces and the associated occupational safety and health challenges and opportunities.

- Joint webinar on campaign theme
- Joint Resources
- Publish an article on the EU-OSHA website

Possible presentation for the next or upcoming SIP National Platform Call(s)?

ACP initiated a discussion on the importance of identifying key actors and projects at the European level, particularly those relevant to EFIC and SIP's work. **PF** emphasized that understanding how to approach these efforts at the European level is crucial and suggested continuing interactions to get a better sense of the landscape. **LJ** mentioned the Pain and Work Project they are involved in.

SIP National Platforms

- Denmark: Lars Bye Moeller suggested creating a comprehensive list of actors and projects, while also highlighting the need to assess the scope of work involved. He noted that with so many initiatives being proposed, it's often hard to delve deeply into any one of them, and reducing travel could allow more time to focus on important tasks.

LJ explained that SIP Finland currently lacks funding and relies on their own organizations to sustain projects, which are government-funded. She stressed the importance of providing detailed information

when reporting on the use of time and resources, to ensure clarity when giving a "yes" or "no" to projects. **ACP** added that SIP Europe is partnering with the EU-OSHA Campaign.

Other

- SIP Bi-lateral Calls – **Completed**
- SIP National Platform Interviews – **To start shortly**
- SIP Letter to the Editor in Cancer Pain – **Published** at Annals of Oncology: [https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534\(24\)00017-6/abstract](https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534(24)00017-6/abstract)
- Pain and mental health publication – **Accepted** at Journal of Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences

SIP National Platform Round-Table

PF and **ACP** introduced Habenom Gedey, a family physician with extensive training and experience in pain and mental health management across both public and private healthcare sectors.

Fellowship: Inter-Professional Integrated virtual Community Health Care Service in Pain and Mental Health + Q&A

Habenom Gedey presented a project focused on the governance of healthcare services in mental health and pain management. He also highlighted the **ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes) initiative**, which aims to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes in these critical areas

ECHO Approach

- To enhance care coordination between mental health and chronic pain. It aims to provide a joined-up, patient centred care with those with co-occurring pain and mental illness. The project is supposed by the governmental bodies. The project is a guided practice model that increases work force capacity to provide the best practice speciality care and reduce health disparities.

ECHOs Core Strategies

- Care should be based on the use of appropriate technology
- Care should be regionalised
- Care should be evidence-based
- Care should be multidisciplinary
- Care should be holistic
- Care should be patient centre

PF suggested to organise a separate call with Habenom Gedey to discuss the project in more detail.

SIP Access to Treatment Event and SIP Stakeholder Forum

ACP kindly reminded everyone on the two following SIP events and reminded everyone to register via the online form. She also asked everyone to send their presentations by the 7th of October.

- **SIP Access To Treatment Event**

- **Date and time:** 16th October 2024 – 10h30-13h30
- **Location:** University Foundation
- **Register:** via the registration form.

- **SIP Stakeholder Forum**
 - **Date:** 16th October 2024 – 15h00-17h00
 - **Location:** The University Foundation
 - **Register:** via email to Angela
 - **SIP NPs Presentations:** 3-5 minutes presentation maximum on 2024 priorities and activities and aspirations for 2025.

SIP Communications, next steps and closure

- **SIP Newsletter going out on 30st October 2024:**
 - **ACP** asked everyone to submit their comments by 23rd October 2024.
- **SIP communications channels:**
 - **ACP** emphasised the importance of engaging with SIP's communication channels, urging everyone to follow their social media, website, and newsletter for the latest information, such as the social media, website, newsletter, etc.,
- **Next SIP National Platform Call:** Thursday 28th November 2024

LJ and **PF** concluded the meeting. They expressed their joy in seeing everyone's participation and looked forward to reuniting at the event in October. They closed the meeting at 15h CEST.