

Societal Impact of Pain Stakeholder Forum (SF) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

November 2021

Background

In Europeⁱ there are approximately 740 million peopleⁱⁱ, most of whom experience an episode of severe pain at some point in their life. For approximately 20 percent, that pain is chronic pain. This means that, at present, 150 million people are experiencing pain across Europe, approximately equal to the population of France and Germany combined.

In 2018, SIP published its Joint Statementⁱⁱⁱ which includes recommendations for action and collaboration by the European Commission, Member States, and civil society to reduce the societal impact of pain. These recommendations form the over-arching and guiding principles for SIP, and are divided into four categories: **health indicators, research, employment, and education.**

1. Rationale for SIP SF MoU

Given your organisation's previous engagement with SIP / your organisation's work in the area of European health and / or social policy, you have been identified as an important stakeholder for SIP, and SIP's work. As such, we are reaching out to stakeholders to strengthen our connection, and nurture further collaboration in the future. This MoU forms the basis of this outreach, and we would be grateful if you would consider signing this MoU.

2. Key objectives and possible collaborations

The SIP SF aims to:

- Involve all relevant healthcare professional, patient, and civil society organisations with an interest in pain policy (or related policies)
- Provide a forum for discussion, cross-promotion, and cooperation on SIP's and respective members' projects and events, on a voluntary basis
- Permit expert input and review of SIP positions on various policy topics, on a voluntary basis
- Work together to strengthen the policy positions of the SIP platform

3. Minimum expected commitment

Stakeholders will engage on activities that are relevant to them, but as a minimum, will engage in the:

- Annual SIP Stakeholder Forum (2-3 hr meeting in Brussels / virtual, in November each year)
- Bi-lateral meetings (45-60 min, in Brussels / virtual in May each year)

Possibly also (depending on interest and alignment):

- Ad-hoc, voluntary review / input into SIP positions (on average, two per year, up to 6 pages)

4. Prerequisites

SF member organisations should:

- Have an interest in pain policy
- Have an international or European scope
- Declare possible conflicts of interest

5. Governance

The SIP team (the European Pain Federation EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe PAE), will ensure the day-to-day management of the SF.

In accordance with the SIP governance model, the scientific framework of the SF is under the responsibility of EFIC, and the strategic policy objectives of the SF are defined by both EFIC and PAE.

SIP reserves the right to any final editorial decisions when concerning the drafting of SIP position papers.

SF members can add their support and logos to SIP position papers, on a case-by-case basis, as they wish.

6. Sustainability and funding

The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of EFIC, and the strategic direction of the project is defined by both EFIC and PAE.

In accordance with the SIP governance model, and in full transparency, the pharmaceutical companies Grünenthal GmbH and GSK are the main sponsors of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform. SIP is seeking divestment in sponsorship, with additional sponsors coming on board in the future. The sponsorship obtained for SIP is partially used to fund the day-to-day project management of SIP, and therefore, by definition, the day-to-day management of the SF.

That said, it is important to stress that the activities of the SIP SF remain entirely under the direction of EFIC, PAE, and the SIP leadership.

7. Signing organisations and logos (in alphabetical order)

Active Citizenship Network (ACN)

APED (Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo da Dor)

Associação Atlântica de Apoio ao Doente Machado-Joseph (AAADMJ)

Associação de Doentes “Da DOR Para a DOR” (DPD)

Associação de Doentes com Lúpus

Associação de Doentes de Dor Crónica dos Açores (ADDCA)

Associação Portuguesa de Fibromialgia (APJOF)

Associação Portuguesa de Neuromusculares (APN)

Association Française de Lutte Anti-Rhumatismale

Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries

Europe Region World Physiotherapy

European Academy of Neurology

European Pain Federation EFIC

European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

Força 3P - Associação de Pessoas com Dor

Grünenthal GmbH

Malta Health Network

Migra Portugal - Associação Portuguesa de Doentes com Enxaqueca e Cefaleias

Myos - Associação Nacional Contra a Fibromialgia e Síndrome de Fadiga Crónica

Pain Alliance Europe

SIP Malta

Sociedade Portuguesa de Esclerose Múltipla (SPEM)

Suomen Kipu ry

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The 'Societal Impact of Pain' (SIP) platform is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the European Pain Federation EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), which aims to raise awareness of pain and change pain policies. The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of EFIC and the strategic direction of the project is defined by both partners. The pharmaceutical companies Grünenthal GmbH and GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals SA are the main sponsors of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform.



About SIP

The 'Societal Impact of Pain' (SIP) platform is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the [European Pain Federation EFIC](#) and [Pain Alliance Europe \(PAE\)](#), which aims to **raise awareness of pain** and **change pain policies**.

The platform provides opportunities for discussion for health care professionals, pain advocacy groups, politicians, healthcare insurance providers, representatives of health authorities, regulators, and budget holders.

The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of EFIC and the strategic direction of the project is defined by both partners. The pharmaceutical company [Grünenthal GmbH](#) is the main sponsor of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform.

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Sources

ⁱ Note: data taking from 37 countries, absent in Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, and the Vatican City.

ⁱⁱ Eccleston C, Wells C, & Morlion B. (2017). European Pain Management. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780198785750 Available at: <http://oxfordmedicine.com/view/10.1093/med/9780198785750.001.0001/med-9780198785750-chapter-1>

ⁱⁱⁱ SIP Thematic Network – SIP Thematic Network 2018 – Joint Statement now available in several languages. Available at: <https://www.sip-platform.eu/resources/details/sip-thematic-network-2018-joint-statement-now-available-in-several-languages> Last accessed November 2020