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1 - PEOPLE

1.1 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

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President Elect	Esther Pogatzki Zahn
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Member-at-Large //	Daniele Battelli
Member-at-Large	Joanne O'Brien Kelly

1.2-COUNCIL

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Slovenia	Bozena Jerković- Parać
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Switzerland	Chantal Berna Renella
The Netherlands	André Wolff
Turkey	Gül Köknel Talu
Ukraine	
United Kingdom	Roger Knaggs
<u>-</u>	

1.3 - EXECUTIVE OFFICE TEAM

Executive Director	Sam Kynman
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Deputy Director and Communications Manager	Melinda Borzsak-Schramm
Congress Manager	Inbar Caspi
Congress Scientific Programme Officer	Mirta Knezevic (K.I.T.)
Advocacy and Projects Manager	Angela Cano Palomares
Advocacy Projects Officer	Marta Bartnicka
Education Projects Officer	Giacomo Quaglio
Research Projects Advisor	Mary O'Keeffe
Research Projects Assistant	Nathan Skidmore

2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear councillors,

I write to you today as I approach the end of the second year of my Presidency.

It is a moment to reflect on achievements made and problems encountered, as well as to focus minds on what can be achieved in the final year.

As expressed previously, 'breaking barriers and building bridges' is a theme I have tried to build into my Presidency over the last two years, and I will dedicate most of this report to progress made in this regard.

For me, this is not something that can be articulated purely through actions and projects, but as a state of mind, with the pain community coming together as one, and reaching out beyond our scientific territory.

2.1 - Reflections on EFIC 2025 in Lyon

Lyon being the place where I have built my clinical and research activity over the last 30 years, the 2025 congress of EFIC was always going to be particularly significant for me.

If you were present at the congress opening ceremony, you will have hopefully seen that I wanted to bring something special to the stage, and I hope that the combined pain science and history of Lyon brought to life during the ceremony added a special flavour to the congress.

Of course the science is what mattered, and I want to give my congratulations to Prof. André Mouraux for his extraordinary scientific programme, covering the topics of pain and mental health. While the theme and the key speakers were all excellent, the moves to elevate the role of more junior speakers, linking workshops with posters, providing additional status to oral poster presentations, these were changes that contributed greatly to the satisfaction of attendees.

I would like to thank the SPC and my friends at the SFETD and French Pain Research Network for building bridges between the European and French pain communities.

While the quality of the science and delegate satisfaction should be the key markers for success, we were also delighted to see an increase in attendants and much increased profit from the congress, supporting the sustainability of EFIC going forward.

2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.2- Progress in research and education

Building bridges between research and education, as well as research and clinical practice, has been a key driver of my Presidency. One of the key successes in our research work over the past year has been the publication and promotion of our European Pain Research Strategy.

While this work was already fully underway when my Presidency started, much work had still to be done within the research committee until it was finally published in early 2025.

This strategy is the first of its kind, establishing a broad consensus across the European pain community on future priorities for research that can guide not only researchers but also funders and policymakers. We are tracking our progress in how effectively the strategy is disseminated, as can be seen on the EFIC website.

Along with this flagship project, started under the Presidency of my friend and colleague Associate Professor Brona Fullen, numerous new initiatives have been launched by our next President and current Research Committee chair, Prof. Esther Pogatzki-Zahn.

Together with vice-Chair Daniel Ciampi, Esther is building a framework with the research committee that should improve the ability of the pain science community to network and respond to funding calls, to develop better clinical practice guidance and to support the careers of junior researchers.

In education, our examinations go from strength to strength, serving as a key motivating factor for clinicians to connect with EFIC. The methodologies and processes of our exams improve continually under our Exam Directors Daniele Battelli, Harriet Wittink and Nadja Nestler.

This year is the first where we examine over 50 doctors aspiring to achieve the European Diploma in Pain Medicine (EDPM). To help this community of young colleagues we have also made significant progress this year towards the development of a handbook for pain medicine aligned with the EDPM.

The aim is to develop something brief and digestible, with chapters written by authoritative names, which is timely but also structured towards the learning approach of EFIC. Such a text does not currently exist and should be very attractive not only to candidates to the exam, but to any young colleagues wishing to obtain concise and updated information in pain medicine.

I wish to warmly thank here my co-editors Drs Victor Mayoral, Silviu Brill, Daniele Battelli, Indre Ljungar and Jesus de Santiago Moraga, who are doing a remarkable and painstainking work to identify and select the best authors, and review each and every chapter to ensure an optimal product.

In the same vein, I would also like to mention the EFIC Academy project, which continues to deepen and mature, providing a highly attractive learning environment for clinicians, especially those studying towards our exams, and thank Prof. Indre Ljungar for her leadership in this matter as Chair of the education committee.

2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.3 - Fighting for the status of pain professionals and improved pain policy

Advocacy, or Public Awareness, is the third pillar of EFIC's work, and has the potential to transform education, research and clinical practice.

Over recent years our work in this area has matured significantly, with our Societal Impact of Pain work going beyond the Brussels bubble to support EFIC's chapters, where there are now various strands of advocacy taking shape.

We have also recently built bridges between advocacy and research, notably via the Pain and Opioids after Surgery (PANDOS) initiative and our recommendations for an European Pain Research Strategy, which we have been working hard to communicate to policymakers in Brussels and beyond.

Policy engagement is a slow process with uncertain outcomes, and it is crucial that EFIC remains engaged in the European policy processes and tries to elevate the status of pain professionals and pain management within wider topics such as non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and cancer.

I deeply thank from here Prof. Patrice Forget for his leadership in these matters, along with EFIC team members Angela Cano Palomares and Marta Bartnicka for their hard work and guidance.

2.4 - Strengthening ties with our chapters and with allied scientific societies

We should never forget that EFIC's chapters, in many cases, have deeper roots than the Federation itself. Chapters are above all National Pain Societies which have their own strengths and weaknesses, and their own challenges to surmount.

I am happy to see EFIC do more to support our chapters, especially for those with less stable finances and organisational structures. In the last year EFIC established a 'liaison' system to make each board member responsible for contact with certain chapters, to give Councillors a more direct connection with EFIC.

We have also improved the range of benefits available via EFIC to chapters members, and are due to provide a new training opportunity for chapter staff this October, via a toolkit for advocacy developed by the EFIC team.

Since 2024, abstracts from National pain meetings can be made accessible to all EFIC chapters via a dedicated link; and 6 national Chapters have already endorsed this enterprise which I expect will live on after my term, Last and certainly not least, the next year will hopefully see the first pain school resulting from the collaboration of 5 EFIC Chapters working closely together, and supported by EFIC.

2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.5 - Strengthening ties with allied scientific societies

Fruitful contacts with a number of scientific societies sharing common interests with EFIC were developed in 2024, and have been actively consolidated during this year, in particular with the European Headache Federation (EHF), the European Societies of Regional Anesthesia (ESRA), Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ESPRM) and the European Section of World Physiotherapy. A series of memoranda of understanding, regular institutional meetings, cross-promotion of our respective events, common webinars and joint sessions at congresses have seen the light this year and others are signed for 2026, in an unprecedented effort to join forces toward common goals. The mutual recognition of certain exams and the creation of joint schools on pain with related societies are even more ambitious goals that I will pursue during my next year in office..

2.6 - Finances

One of the biggest challenges at the start of my Presidency was the financial impact of the CO-VID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic shockwaves caused. Like many organisations, EFIC felt the effect of this: postponed congresses, difficulties to pursue other activities, and an inability to earn income. After several difficult years, including two congresses with virtually inexistent profits, we are now entering a brighter period. The war in Ukraine, inflation and general concerns about the cost-of-living in Europe will no doubt continue to challenge us, but the picture today looks much better than in 2023. We expect 2025 to be the first profitable year since 2019. Hopefully the congress profit of Lyon can be repeated or improved in 2027, and with a much stronger set of income sources in the form of the Academy, our exams and EU-funded projects, we hope to have stronger foundations in the event of future shocks

2.7 - Breaking barriers, building bridges ...

As I said above, breaking barriers and building bridges is a matter of mindset as much as specific policies. I highlighted some recent examples where this idea has been put into practice; others are in the pipeline. Keep your eyes open for that in the near future.

There are a large number of motivated and energetic people bringing EFIC's ambitions and project to life, and I thank them all for their support. In particular I deeply thank the Executive Board and the EFIC office: they are the indispensable shadow behind any President.

Luis Garcia Larrea

President, European Pain Federation EFIC

3 - COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

3.1 - ORGANIGRAMME - COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

CO RE
COMM ITTEES WORKING GROUPS &
MAN DATES

CONGRESS
COMMITTEES MANDATES

CONGRESS OPERATIONAL

Chair: Luis Garcia Larrea

LOCAL ORGANISING

Chair: Frédéric Aubrun

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Chair: André Mouraux

EDUCATION

Chair: Indre Bileviciute-Ljungar

WG - PAIN MEDICINE EDUCATION

Chair: Bart Morlion

WG - PAIN PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION

Chair: Harriet Wittink (VC)

WG - PAIN PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION

Chair: Ed Keogh

WG - PAIN NURSING EDUCATION

Chair: Felicia Cox

WG - UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

Chair: Andreas Kopf

WG - COMMON TRAINING FRAMEWORK

Chair: Andreas Kopf

WG - PAIN SCHOOLS

Chair: Bart Morlion

WG - PATIENT EDUCATION

Chair: Vacant

WG - ONLINE EDUCATION

Chair: Morten Hoegh

RESEARCH

Chair: Esther Pogatzki-Zahn

WG - RESEARCH S TRATEGY AND PRIORITY SETTING

Chair: Gisèle Picker ing

WG - RESEARCH F UNDING & PRIZES

Chair: André Mour aux (VC)

WG - CLINICAL AF FAIRS

Chair: Elon Eisenbe rg

WG - TRANSLATIO NAL RESEARCH

Chair: Thomas Gra ven Nielsen

ADVOCACY

Chair: Patrice Forget

WG - SOCIAL IMPACT OF PAIN

Chair: Patrice Forget (VC)

WG - EUROPEAN PAIN FORUM

Chair: Thomas Tölle

WG - EYAP 2021

Chair: Paul Cameron

WG - CANCER PAIN

Chair: Silviu Brill

WG - HEALTH LITERACY

Chair: Laura Mackey

WG - 'ON THE MOVE'

Chair: Henrik Bjarke Vægter

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES MANDATES

AUDIT

Chair: Ana Maria Pedro

EDUCATIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Chair: Magdalena Kocot-Kępska

ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Chair: Arunas Sciupokas

ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

Chair: Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč

FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chair: Patrice Forget

4 - MAPPING OUR PROGRESS

To better understand the impact EFIC has, we have decided to start including in our annual report, a series of performance metrics related to our key projects and objectives. We may expand on these as we go forward, but for now we will stick to a few for which we have measurable data. Where no new data is available for 2025, we use the last available metric.

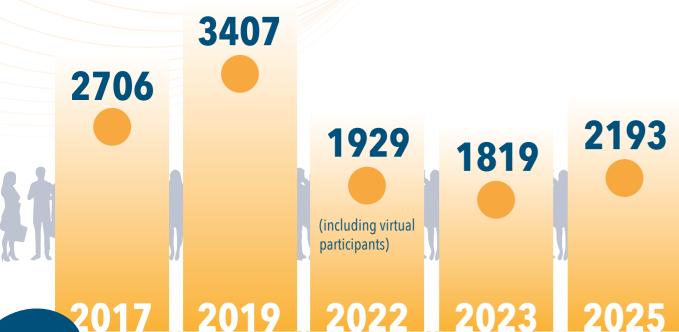
4.1 – ACADEMY MEMBERS

The EFIC Academy is our latest educational and community building project. As of 15 July 2025, we have 950 members. This means that over 900 people have access to EFIC's education platform, the European Journal of Pain as well as webinars and Q&As. Numbers were lower this year as there was no Virtual Pain Education Summit taking place in 2025.



4.2 - CONGRESS ATTENDEES

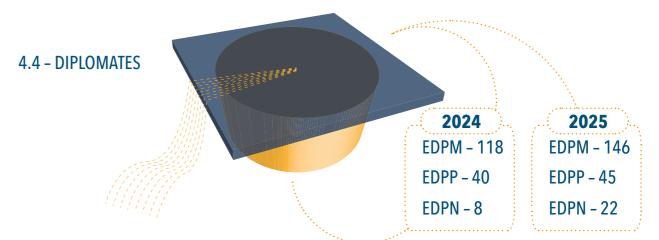
Our congress numbers, like those of many other congresses, have been impacted substantially by the pandemic and knock-on effects on economy and travel. We were very glad to see that the 2025 EFIC Congress took us back closer to the pre-pandemic attendee range.



4.3 - ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS

We were pleased to see that the number of submitted abstracts for the 14th EFIC Congress in 2025 exceeded the number in 2023, showing a clear interest of researchers who wish to showcase their work at our congress.





As of 2025, 146 medical doctors have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Medicine, 45 physiotherapists have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Physiotherapy, and 22 nurses have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Nursing, meaning EFIC recognise that they have adequate training and knowledge to manage the care of patients with all types of pain. This is tested through our Examinations which cover both knowledge as well as clinical management skills.

4.5 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN IMPACT FACTOR



While the European Journal of Pain (EJP) is editorially independent of EFIC, it is our house journal and intrinsically linked to the Federation.

5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.1 - ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Dear colleagues

Lam pleased to address you for the first time as Honorary Secretary. Over the past 8 years, EFIC's administration had gradually professionalised, with the Executive Office spearheading the majority of administrative changes. Nevertheless, I would like to play my part in supporting EFIC's administrative processes. In the past year, the following key changes have taken place:

- Our Executive Director, Sam Kynman has moved to Northern Ireland to be closer to family, meaning that the team is in a period of transition. We are working with Sam and the team to ensure that this change works for both parties, and that the team's management continues to be supported despite this change. Sam assures us that this will be the case and is taking steps to remain in frequent contact with the team, including travelling to Brussels once per month.
- We have been happy to have a few births in the Executive Office team recently, with responsibilities covered effectively by other team members stepping in.
- Our Communication Manager, Melinda Borzsak Schramm, is now our Deputy Director, after demonstrating her highly effective team management support over the past few years, with Sam and Melinda working together on many team and organisational management issues for EFIC.
- We continue to work primarily in a virtual capacity in our governance, with a conservative approach to travel still applied.
- Board meeting preparation is now increasingly delegated across the whole team, rather than relying principally on the Executive Director.
- A key change in our board meeting coordination has been a new approach to taking decisions on EU-funded project calls, with the EFIC research projects team working in advance to summarise new ideas in relation to their relevance to EFIC, allowing for much easier decision-making.

5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications team of the European Pain Federation EFIC continued building on the previous years' work by successfully managing promotion and communications around the 2025 EFIC Congress – Pain in Europe XIV.

With Communications Manager Melinda Borzsak-Schramm and additional support from Communications and Advocacy trainees Marta Bartnicka, Oda Marie Steensen and Christopher Mitchell, the team was able to form a comprehensive promotional strategy for all EFIC's projects and activities and implement it on a multitude of communications channels ranging from mailings to cross-promotion to social media.

5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS



#EFIC2025 Congress - Pain in Europe XIV

In the leadup to the #EFIC2025 Congress, communications once again play a pivotal role at every stage. Building on the success of previous years, promoting key deadlines such as workshop and abstract submissions, as well as registration, is essential for effective outreach.

While EFIC utilises all communication channels available, the website and mailing list have proven to be the best methods to effectively reach our audience. Our main focus was on introducing the congress programme, promoting the venue and congress location as well as the networking activities taking place at the congress. EFIC also ensured a strong presence at as many relevant international and national events as possible.

Social media

Our social media channels have been growing continuously (in total over 26,000, up from 23,000 last year). However, not all of them have proven successful in engaging with our audien-

,	Audience si	ze		······································	
	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Linkedin	
July 2024	6.834	8.022	3.505	4.412	
July 2025	6.979	7.979	4.308	6.901	
Growth in %	2 %	0 %	23 %	58 %	

ce; Twitter/X has experienced a significant decrease in both followers and engagement, leading us to effectively cease activity on this platform.

On the other hand, LinkedIn has shown to be a lively place of online communication and is thriving. The continuous and strategic use of hashtags such as #EFIC2025 for the Congress, #EFICAcademy for our educational platform or #EJPain for content pertaining to the European Journal of Pain has further increased visibility, especially on Instagram which shows a clear focus for ECRs.

5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

CRM Database & Newsletter

Thanks to our comprehensive and professional CRM and newsletter setup, we have been able to increase our audience significantly in the past twelve months. This also allowed us to communicate more effectively and clearly, making sure that key audiences receive messages specifically relevant to them.

Webinars

EFIC also organised several successful webinars - completely free of charge - on timely topics such as the use of AI in pain research, chronic stress and pain or fibromyalgia. A particular effort was made to coorganise webinars with other international partner organisations such as the European Headache Federation, The Europe Region of the World Physiotherapy Organisation or the European Cancer Organisation, allowing EFIC to cross-promote relevant projects and resources to a new audience.

Website

The in-house management of both the general EFIC website as well as the EFIC Congress website continues to result in a more streamlined process and effective content management. The combined usage of our website, online store system, CRM database, education platform and newsletter programme has resulted in more in-house control and efficient data protection.

Discord

In spring 2025, EFIC decided to launch a presence on Discord to meet the growing need for a supportive, professional space for healthcare professionals, researchers, and students in the pain field. As mainstream social media platforms become increasingly algorithm-driven and less conducive to meaningful dialogue, many in our community are seeking more focused and productive ways to connect. Discord offers a dynamic, inclusive environment where members can engage in constructive discussions, share resources, and build deeper connections. This new platform will evolve with the needs of our community while fostering collaboration, learning, and support in a trusted digital space.

New projects and sections launched online:

> EFIC Congress 2025

A complete website providing comprehensive information around the 14th EFIC Congress.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2025/

> EFIC Congress 2027

A separate website providing comprehensive information around the 15th EFIC Congress.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2027/

5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

> ICD-11 and Chronic Pain

A comprehensive overview which serves as a resource for our audience.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/icd-11-and-chronic-pain/

Abstracts from National Chapter Events in 2024

An overview of abstracts from national EFIC chapters from 2024.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/news/abstracts-from-the-european-pain-federation-efic-chapter-meetings-2024/

> Support to National Chapter Members

An overview on available benefits and services provided to members of EFIC national chapters.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/support-for-efic-national-chapter-members/

> EFIC Clinical Practice Guidelines Requirements

A page outlining the minimum criteria that must be met for the European Pain Federation EFIC to cosign a Practice Recommendation.

https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-clinical-practice-guidelines-requirements/

Caterina Aurilio

Honorary Secretary

5.3 - COMMUNICATION CHANNELS







- www.europeanpainfederation.eu
- https://efic-congress.org/
- https://www.linkedin.com/company/efic2021/
 - https://www.instagram.com/efic_org/
 - www.europeanpainfederation.eu/newsletter/ newsletter
- http://academy.europeanpainfederation.eu/
 - https://discord.gg/fn4Yfdg9





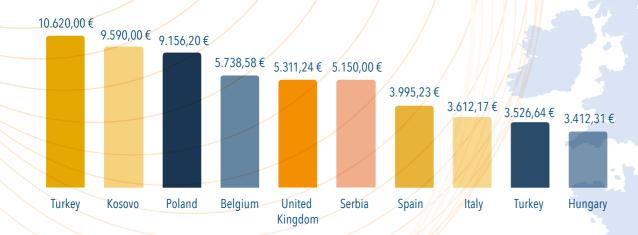
6 - SUPPORT FOR EFIC'S CHAPTERS

The beneficiaries of EFIC's educational support are young clinicians and researchers from the 40 chapters of EFIC. Funding for education is provided through the following activities:

- Places at EFIC Pain Schools
- Speakers at national scientific meetings funded by EFIC
- Financial support bursaries for congress attendees

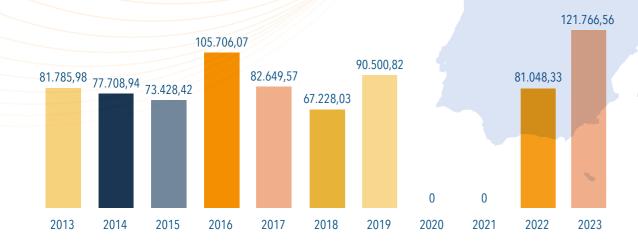
EFIC provides high quality interprofessional educational opportunities for all European clinicians and researchers working in the field of pain. EFIC aims to distribute these opportunities as widely as possible across its 40 chapters, noting the need for stronger financial support in less economically developed countries.

The top 10 recipient countries in 2023 were:



The total funding provided in 2024 was € 90,425.05 euros.

Below are the sums for the previous 10 years, for comparison. The amount will fluctuate depending on the activities available during the year.





7 - PATIENT INCLUSIVITY

7.1 - OVERVIEW

The European Pain Federation EFIC's mission to be inclusive of patients (or as we often say these days 'people with lived' experience of pain) is becoming more of a reality this year. As has been the case over many years, projects like the Societal Impact of Pain platform, our congress SPC and many task forces include patient representatives. However, we are attempting to go further. The current President of Pain Alliance Europe, Nadia Malliou is a strong ally in this field.

Our work is likely to cover the following dimensions:

- Societal Impact of Pain as the main foundation for collaborative working, where EFIC and PAE are equal partners.
- Elaborating further on the patient dimension to EFIC's Pain Research Strategy
- EFIC supporting PAE in consistently applying for EU-funded projects where the patient voice is needed helping PAE develop basic tools to support its applications, and to bring PAE into the discussions with potential consortia.
- Providing PAE with basic secretarial and office management services from the EFIC Executive Office.
- Assisting PAE in broadening its base of support, whether in the form of individuals, member organisations or specific patient communities relevant to pain.
- Working with PAE to develop reliable scientifically valid patient self-management advice.
- Developing a new area of the EFIC Academy for tools to support patients rather than HCPs.
- Developing a memorandum of understanding to formalise agreement of these plans and set some form of roadmap for action.



7 - PATIENT INCLUSIVITY

8.1 - EDUCATION COMMITTEE - CHAIR: INDRE BILEVICIUTE-LJUNGAR 8.1.1 - STRUCTURE

Professional Leadership Groups	Assess	ments	Educational materials & event	ts
Physicians Indre Bileviciute-Ljungar	EDPM	Daniele Battelli	Pain Schools	Bart Morlion
Physiotherapists Harriet Wittink	EDPP	Harriet Wittink	Masterclasses	Daniel Ciampi de Andrade
Psychologists Ed Keogh	EDPPsy	TBC	Summit	Indre Bileviciute-Ljungar
Nurses Felicia Cox	EDPN	Nadja Nestler	Education Platform	Morton Hoegh
			Textbook	Victor Mayoral
			Patient and public education	TBC

8.1.2 - EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

I write to you after two years as Chair of the Education Committee. The Education Committee is maybe slightly different to the Research and Advocacy Committees, in that it is like a machine, constantly operating, with several parts driven autonomously outside of the Committee leadership's direct supervision.

As Chair, my job is to oversee the machine, and to identify and help set up new activities that compliment what the machine is already capable of doing. Our Education Programme thrives on the leadership provided by our various project leaders, in particular those leading our Examinations work, which requires constant attention and professional delivery.

This year, our flagship exam, the European Diploma in Pain Medicine, has surpassed previous plans and expectations, with almost 50 candidates taking the intense part 2 practical examination. We are delighted to see the exam gain this level of recognition and interest, and we will need to think carefully about how to satisfy audience demand going forward. The exam grows stronger also in terms of rigour



and consistency, with a high level of educational and scientific excellence in the development of the exam materials. I also congratulate our nursing exam group, who had 17 candidates take their part 2 exam this year. Our physiotherapy exam group continues to make progress, and now with a new EFIC-

endorsed pyhsio exam in Denmark gaining a lot of traction. We need to plan carefully how we proceed with regards to language and local implementation, as demand is growing but not everyone can attend an exam in one central location. To be certain, any examination endorsed by EFIC needs to be done to the highest standards. The exams play a significant role in implemention of high quality of knowledge among our colleagues in Europe.

Besides the exams, another recent developent has been the creation of a new strategy for our EFIC Academy project. We plan to update the Academy this year, and in particular the e-learning platform, to make the Academy attractive to a wider audience. In any case, the project is improving gradually and has close to 1,000 users. To increase the learning process further we plan to integrate Academy materials into some of EFIC pain schools. Therefore, we continously update the platform with new materials. A release of clinical video cases with following webinars is another way in engaging our members. A major part of the relaunch of the project will be a new approach to the 'Virtual Summit', with live activities being organised but in a different format, keeping up to date with user behaviour post-pandemic.

The EDPM handbook project is reaching a mature stage, with most chapters already accepted and discussions with publishers ongoing. We expect our textbook to be a key learning resource for exam candidates, but also an accessible learning aid for any clinician embarking on a career in pain medicine.

In 2025 we held Pain Schools on cancer pain and palliative care in Maribor and on acute pain in Riga, both delivering excellent programmes for their attendees. Our plans to organise new Schools according to a public tendering process are still being discussed, with plans for a school on pain and rehabilitation and a school on multidisciplinary pain management in south east Europe.

I thank all of our various working group chairs and my vice chair Victor Mayoral for their hard work over the last year.

Indre Bileviciute-Ljungar

Chair, Education Committee

8.1.3. - EFIC EDUCATION STRATEGY

Vision For no patient in Europe to live with unmanaged pain, through leadership in comprehensive pain education and training across the healthcare professions. Objectives To provide students of all healthcare disciplines and professions with a basic proficiency in pain concepts. To provide post-graduate education to all disciplines and pain assessment and management To provide pain education to patients, policy makers and the general public. Values Interprofessional - recognising the value of all professions, integrating the different dimensions of pain. Promoting the value of multi-modal pain assessment and management To provide post-graduate education to all disciplines and professions involved in multimodal pain assessment and management To provide pain education to patients, policy makers and the general public. Solution of the value of all professions, integrating the different dimensions of pain. Promoting the value of multi-modal pain assessment and management To provide students of all healthcare disciplines and professions. Solution of European Diploma in Pain Physiotherapy Paint Education E - learning Education Platform

8 - COMMITTEES 8.1.3. - EFIC EDUCATION STRATEGY EFIC Scientific Society offering leadership in pain education EFIC Academy **EFIC Education** Membership scheme created b **EFIC Education Committee Programme** up designated by EFIC to design EFIC's educational programme EFIC Academy Board EFIC Academy olunteers who wish to contrib Members to EFIC's educational materials Clinicians hoping to Education Platform mprove their educatior Educators/Contributors materials, adhering with EFIC's Learners/Followers **Education Programme EFIC EFIC Education** Programme EFIC Education Committee up designated by EFIC to design EFIC's Curricula **Examinations** Codification of EFIC's educational approach for Assessment of a clinicians knowledge and competences, with learning derived from the Pain Schools and Refresher Courses **Education Platform and Summit** The two key events demonstrating EFIC's live Main repository of e-learning materials, adhering with teaching - more practical and competence EFIC's Education Programme - more knowledge focused

8 - COMMITTEES

8.2 - RESEARCH COMMITTEE - CHAIR: ESTHER POGATZKI ZAHN 8.2.1 - STRUCTURE

Working Groups	Chair
Developing a Pain Research Strategy	Esther Pogatzki-Zahn and Brona Fullen
Patient collaboration on the future of research	Esther Pogatzki-Zahn and Kevin Vowles
European pain research collaboration	
and opportunities mapping	Daniel Ciampi de Andrade (vice chair)
Producing evidence-based clinical guidance	Elon Eisenberg and Xavier Moisset
Bridging the gap from the lab to society	Ipek Yalcin and Geert Crombez
Improving translational pain research	Daniel Segelcke and Esther Pogatzki-Zahn
Supporting rising stars in pain research	Jan Vollert and Kristian Kjaer Petersen
Providing research funding opportunities	
for early career researchers	Thomas Graven Nielsen

8.2.2 - RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

Over the past year, the Research Committee has advanced a number of key workstreams designed to strengthen EFIC's role in shaping the future of pain research, support the next generation of researchers, and ensure that science translates into real-world impact.

Following its publication in the European Journal of Pain, the dissemination of the European Pain Research Strategy has progressed strongly through the PRiSE project. A central communications document has been adapted into tailored resources for patients, healthcare professionals, and researchers, supported by visual aids to improve accessibility. A dedicated policy version is informing discussions in the European Parliament and, it is hoped, future funding cycles. This work is focused on ensuring the strategy is communicated with clarity and reach, and will remain a priority in the coming year.

EFIC is also consolidating its role in European research consortia by strengthening collaboration and improving how new opportunities are identified. Support from partner organizations has helped monitor relevant calls and facilitate networking with prospective consortia. Looking ahead, we aim to pilot this approach with members by sharing details of specific calls, outlining EFIC's potential contribution, and better positioning the pain research community to secure EU funding. In parallel, EFIC is refining its processes for producing evidence-based clinical guidance. Evaluation criteria for reviewing proposals will soon be published on the EFIC website with a four-week consideration period. These criteria were successfully piloted in the approval of the "Work for MSK" proposal, and plans are underway to expand this model towards an open call process, similar to the European Respiratory Society.

Several newer initiatives are also developing. The Lab-to-Society stream is being shaped to connect

8.2.2 - RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

pain researchers with the wider public through webinars, accessible materials, and media engagement, ensuring EFIC is recognized as a trusted voice on pain science. At the same time, discussions with Pain Alliance Europe and colleagues are helping lay the groundwork for embedding the perspectives of people with lived experience of pain into EFIC's research agenda. The coming year will be an important step forward, as structures for genuine co-creation are established. Work also continues on translational pain research, with priorities being clarified and areas identified where EFIC can add the greatest value, paving the way for new initiatives that strengthen links between laboratory research and clinical care.

Supporting the next generation of researchers remains central to EFIC's mission. A new program for rising stars has been launched, with 29 applications reviewed and the selected faculty now confirmed. Activities will begin in the coming year, providing opportunities for mentorship, visibility, and professional growth. Alongside this, EFIC completed another successful cycle of grants and prizes at the Congress in Lyon. Planning is already underway for the next round, including the exploration of new types of grants and prizes, as well as additional funding sources, to expand opportunities for early career researchers across Europe.

Alongside these workstreams, EFIC has continued to play an active role in major European research initiatives, contributing expertise, dissemination capacity, and leadership to projects that advance pain science and education across Europe. The PRiSE project has delivered the first European Pain Research Strategy, setting out clear priorities across basic, translational, and clinical research in chronic pain. Developed with input from experts and patient representatives, the strategy highlights enablers, barriers, and a framework for implementation, supported by a web platform to track progress. Its publication in the European Journal of pain marks a milestone for the field, providing a roadmap to advance understanding, foster collaboration, and translate findings into clinical practice. Current efforts focus on dissemination, ensuring the strategy reaches healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and the wider public through targeted engagement and tailored communication materials.

Alongside this, EFIC is engaged in several major European initiatives. The PANACEA project, led by Università di Bologna, has developed education and training resources on placebo and nocebo effects, with outputs including a syllabus, digital tools, and summer schools. EFIC contributed a Europe-wide survey of healthcare professionals, with findings under peer review (expected Q4 2025), and will host the project's final event in Brussels in November 2025. The Digi4MSK project, led by San Jorge University, producing digital health literacy training for musculoskeletal care, with EFIC driving dissemination, content development, and piloting through webinars, MOOCs, and community activities until 2026. Complementing these, EFIC's multiple-methods study on pain education revealed wide variation across Europe in curricula resources, identifying key gaps – particularly in psychology – and opportunities to strengthen interdisciplinary and international collaboration to improve pain education standards.

Esther Pogatzki-Zahn

Chair, Research Committee

European Pain Federation EFIC Research Strategy



8 - COMMITTEES

8.3 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE - CHAIR: PATRICE FORGET 8.3.1 - STRUCTURE

Internal Objectives	Lead
Be a trusted scientific partner for policy makers on policy issues related to pain prevention, management and treatment	. Luis García-Larrea
2. Unify and represent the voices of medical and scientific societies in Europe around the idea of 'pain as a biopsychosocial phenomenon'	Ulrike Kaiser
3. Be an inclusive organisation, recognising the value of all professions involved in pain management, as well as the voice of patients	Joanne O'Brien Kelly
External Objectives	Lead
Foster the uptake of pain education for healthcare professionals in Europe at all levels of education	. Victor Mayoral Rojals
2. Promote pain as a priority research area, and encourage European and national research funding bodies to include pain as priority area	Esther Pogatzki-Zahn
Campaign for (access to) multiprofessional and multimodal pain management	Michiel Reneman
4. Promote the concept of 'pain as a condition in its own right' to empower patients with chronic primary pain	. Rolf-Detlef Treede
5. Engage in an evidence-based approach to opioids and cannabinoids to inform public understanding and prevent misuse	Patrice Forget
6. Promote the role of physical activity and low-risk interventions in pain management	Mira Meeus
5. Promoting health literacy and good communication between healthcare professionals and patients	Joanne O'Brien Kelly

Projects	Chair
Social Impact of Pain	Patrice Forget (Chair)
Networking and Liaison	Luis Garcia Larrea
'On the Move'	Mira Meeus and Jonas Verbrugghe
Cancer Pain	Silviu Brill
Health Literacy	Nadja Nestler

 6

8.3 - ADVOCACY/COMMITTEE - CHAIR: PATRICE FORGET

8.3.2 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

lam delighted to report that the committee continues to work at full speed, fostering and promoting both the internal and the external advocacy objectives. Supported by the Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Joanne O'Brien Kelly, who helps guide and shape our work, along with the advocacy objectives Leaders and projects Chairs, the committee is progressively becoming more robust, ensuring that all areas of EFIC's work are represented, including, for example, education and research.

The full advocacy committee quarterly meetings, continue to take place. These ensure all parties involved are on the same page and work collaboratively rather than in silos. Further, the regular advocacy Chairs monthly meetings guide the activities of the committee. The new targets that were set in 2024, are progressively being met, providing new scope and baggage to our work and focus.

The Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) remains our primary vehicle for achieving policy change, leaded by both EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE). SIP continues to move forward, strengthening and expanding the SIP network and forging new alliances with different EU Stakeholders and policymakers, achieving major successes in 2025. SIP's political priorities for 2025 are ICD-11 via the European Health Data Space (EHDS); Access to Treatment; and Preventive Healthcare for Chronic Pain.



SIP

Over the past two years, SIP has strategically engaged with EU institutions to highlight the importance of pain in digital health frameworks. Notably, SIP contributed to consultations on the European Health Data Space (EHDS), which culminated in the inclusion of an International Classification Coding system for diseases within the Regulation. More specifically as part of 'Annex 1; Main characteristics of priority categories of personal electronic health data for primary use; Patient Summary'. Stating 'An International Classification Coding' to classify 'Current, resolved, closed or inactive problems' within patient summaries. The European Parliament formally approved the EHDS provisional agreement on 24 April 2024, followed by full Council endorsement on 21 January 2025. The final text of the EHDS Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 5 March 2025, ensuring its enforcement begins on 26 March 2025. Crucially, Annex 1 now mandates the use of international classification coding—such as ICD-11—in patient summary data, marking a pivotal step toward digitally embedding chronic pain into national health systems and facilitating its widespread implementation. To support the momentum, SIP has developed a Joint Statement on why ICD-11 should be implemented at national level, which is getting endorsed by different sibling organisations whose field has also been positively affected by ICD-11. SIP will follow the implementation process of the EHDS and will continue to engage with policymakers on this crucial topic for the pain and health community alike.

Further, SIP, via EFIC, is now part of the WHO-FIC (WHO-Family of International Classifications) European Network and has attended several meetings held in Brussels, where ICD-11 progress implementation has been discussed by the different partners, formed by national authorities and stakeholders. In addition, in the context of the new EU Health mandate, SIP has engaged with the cabinet of Health Commissioner Oliviér Várhelyi and with DG Research Unit D1 – Combatting diseases, among other relevant policymakers and stakeholders, on the topics of ICD-11; access to treatment; non-communicable diseases; and mental health.

The SIP Book of Evidence on the burden of pain, was launched at a multi-stakeholder policy event in October 2024, and it has been translated into all the different languages of the SIP National Platforms. The high-

level policy event concluded with a powerful call to EU and national authorities to elevate chronic pain as a public health priority and ensure equitable, evidence-based care across Europe. Further, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) considers EFIC a crucial partner in their work to improve access to treatment and they attended as a speaker to the SIP Access to Treatment event in 2024. In addition, SIP launched in January 2025, a series of four infographics on relevant topics, such as, the prevalence of pain; common pain conditions; the biopsychosocial model of pain; and real-life experiences of people living with chronic pain. All four infographics are proving to be very successful online and at national level. The campaign is supported by policymakers, experts in the field and patients.

With regards to Preventive Healthcare, SIP published in July 2025 its Position Paper on Preventive Healthcare for chronic pain, which will be politically launched at an event in October 2025, in the context of European Pain Awareness Day. The paper highlights, amongst others, the need to shift the focus from reactive treatment to proactive prevention by addressing modifiable biopsychosocial risk factors such as, low physical activity, mental distress, and poor workplace conditions. Further, the Policy Framework for the Delivery of Pain Care, a valuable publication which aims to address the challenges that individuals living with pain encounter in their respective countries, has been updated to incorporate a section on the need and relevance of preventive healthcare. The document now provides a detailed framework to improve pain management and treatment, heighten patient outcomes, increase chronic pain prevention, and decrease the overall burden of pain.

In addition, SIP will also hold its annual Stakeholder Forum, bringing together different EU Stakeholders and organisations working in the field of pain or pain-related policies, to discuss the EU Health Policy Agenda and set the policy priorities for the upcoming year.

SIP has continued to strengthen its collaboration with the SIP National Platforms, working closely through quarterly and bilateral meetings to define national-level activities aligned with each year's objectives and policy priorities. These platforms play a key role within SIP and their contributions also include presenting SIP at national congresses, engaging with national and EU policymakers, and co-developing advocacy tools in partnership with the SIP team. Importantly, they are actively involved in shaping the agenda by participating in the discussions to define SIP's annual objectives and policy priorities.

Additionally, SIP has prepared a comprehensive Advocacy Toolkit designed to empower its National Platforms and other local actors to drive policy change more effectively. This practical, step-by-step resource provides guidance on how to establish a SIP National Platform, design and implement a tailored advocacy strategy, and engage strategically with national stakeholders. The Toolkit includes templates, policy resources, stakeholder mapping tools, and campaign planning materials. Its main goal is to align national advocacy with SIP Europe's overarching priorities—such as pain prevention, integration of ICD-11, and recognition of pain as a public health challenge—while allowing flexibility to adapt to specific country contexts. By fostering shared messaging, capacity building, and strategic coordination, the Toolkit aims to strengthen pain advocacy across Europe from the ground up.

The European Pain Forum continues to be a key pillar of EFIC's advocacy work, strengthening our relationship with our scientific partner organisations and expanding the impact of our scientific and educational work. Recent and current projects that involve the European Pain Forum include our Research Strategy and our work in defining 'Multimodal Pain Treatment'. The 'Multimodal Pain Treatment' project is expected to be finalised in the upcoming months. The endorsement of the Pain Forum members towards these projects will hugely increase their credibility and political weight. Further, EFIC has expanded the scope of the European Pain Forum, and several new organisations have joined the Forum as members (i.e. EUG and EACLIPT).

8.3 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE - CHAIR: PATRICE FORGET 8.3.2 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Our 'On The Move' campaign and working group, now leaded by Mira Meeus and Jonas Verbrugghe, continues to move along very nicely. The working group has recently published a new leaflet entitled '5 Key Recommendations to Promote Physical Activity' which was heavily featured at the EFIC Congress in Lyon. Further, the working group is now developing an infographic on common mistakes with regards to physical activity and breaking down common myths.

The 'Plain Talking' campaign and working group, leaded by Nadja Nestler, continues to deliver numerous successes. The working group is now looking into analysing what type of health literacy resources do health care professionals need, to support the health literacy needs of their patients. To do that, several surveys have been launched, the results of which, the working group will soon analyse. The results will inform the next phase of the campaign in terms of content and resources development. In addition, they are also working on a scoping literature review.

Further, a multiple-methods study led by EFIC in collaboration with European partners, examined the current state of undergraduate and postgraduate pain education for nurses, physicians, psychologists, and physiotherapists across Europe. Using a combination of a scoping review, a large online survey of over 500 educators, and qualitative interviews with national chapters and professional bodies, the research identified significant variation in teaching hours, curricular content, and assessment methods. While some disciplines, such as medicine and physiotherapy, demonstrated relatively structured curricula, others, notably psychology, were found to have substantial gaps. The study also explored the barriers to improving pain education, highlighting issues such as curriculum constraints, limited resources, and a shortage of specialised educators. Importantly, it identified opportunities to enhance interdisciplinary and international collaboration to raise the overall standard of pain education. Published in 2025, this work represents a landmark effort by EFIC to map the European pain education landscape and to set out clear priorities for standardising evidence-based curricula, fostering cross-disciplinary learning, and strengthening educator capacity.

In addition, the PRiSE project, led by EFIC, set out to develop and implement the first European Pain Research Strategy, identifying the most pressing priorities across basic, pre-clinical, translational, and clinical chronic pain research. Working closely with world-leading experts and patient representatives, the project reached consensus on key research priorities, explored enablers and barriers to implementation, and developed a web platform to track progress and share developments across the community. The project's findings have been published in the European Journal of Pain, marking a major milestone in providing the pain research community with a clear, evidence-informed set of priorities and a practical framework for implementation. This strategy offers a roadmap for advancing understanding, improving collaboration between research groups, and translating research findings into clinical impact. The current focus is on Work Package 3 – Dissemination and Communication, ensuring that the strategy reaches all relevant stakeholders across Europe.

With regards to the proposal for a standardised definition of Multimodal Chronic Pain Treatment and Management, the publication is currently in preparation for submission to the European Journal of Pain, and the IASP Terminology Working Group. The EFIC Task Force in charge of the project, has established definitions of multimodal chronic pain treatment and modalities, along with a preliminary list, aligning with the biopsychosocial model addressing identified barriers which could enhance implementation across European healthcare systems in many European countries.

8 - COMMITTEES

Finally, on the progress made within our external advocacy objectives, it would be important to highlight that with regards to external objective one, 'Foster the uptake of pain education for healthcare professionals in Europe at all levels of education', it was recently achieved that if someone holds the EDPM, they will be granted access to the second year of the pain speciality in France. Replicating this across Europe, is something we will continue to work towards.

Our efforts have remained strong, and we are committed to building on this momentum to achieve even greater impact in the years ahead.

Patrice Forget

Chair, Advocacy Committee

8.4 - OBJECTIVES 8.4.1 - INTERNAL OBJECTIVES

-1

Be a trusted scientific partner for policy makers on policy issues related to pain prevention, management and treatment

2

Unify and represent the voices of healthcare professional organisations in Europe around the idea of 'pain as a biopsychosocial phenomenon'

3

Be an inclusive organisation, recognising the value of all professions involved in pain management, as well as the voice of patients

8.4 - OBJECTIVES 8.4.2 - EXTERNAL OBJECTIVES

Foster the uptake of pain education for healthcare professionals in Europe at all levels of education

Promote pain as a priority research area, and encourage European and national research funding bodies to include pain as priority area

Campaign for (access to) multiprofessional and multimodal pain management

Promote the concept of 'pain as a condition in its own right' to empower patients with chronic primary pain

Engage in an evidence-based approach to controversies and societal concerns to inform public understanding

Promote the role of physical activity and low-risk interventions in pain management

Promote improved health literacy amongst HCPs, patients and general public to improve adherence to treatment and better self-management

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.1 – 2025 SPC CHAIR REPORT PAIN IN EUROPE XIV: COMORBIDITY OF CHRONIC PAIN AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS: BREAKING THE CYCLE

Programme Process and Delivery Report

Overview:

Dear Councillors, I believe we can proudly conclude that the efforts of the EFIC leadership and team, and the scientific committee I had the honour of chairing resulted in the delivery of a large, diverse, and scientifically rich programme. With high levels of international participation, strong numbers in abstract submissions, and a wide variety of session formats, the congress underscored EFIC's position as a leading multidisciplinary platform in pain science.

1. Scientific quality and engagement

The scientific quality of the programme and the high level of delegate engagement were consistently praised. Looking ahead, it will be essential to continue delivering this standard of excellence while ensuring that the programme caters in relevant measure to all engaged communities—clinicians, basic scientists, allied health professionals, early-career researchers, patients and patient representatives and industry partners—so that each finds content of direct value within EFIC's multidisciplinary framework, preferably within multidisciplinary sessions that bring these audiences together.

2. Operational learnings and optimisation

Operational learnings from Lyon have highlighted areas requiring process optimisation. These include optimising programme schedules to allow sufficient opportunities for informal networking and exchange, refining abstract and workshop submission deadlines, curate categories to allow their use to make links across content (e.g. topical poster walks led by workshop presenters), improving logistical flow, and enhancing accessibility. Addressing these areas will be central to the development of a more balanced, attendee-friendly programme for EFIC 2027 in Glasgow, without compromising on scientific depth.

Programme Structure and Sessions

The scale of the scientific programme was reflected in a total of 127 sessions, spanning multiple formats:

- 13 Plenaries with 19 invited speakers (these included one early-career plenary session with two speakers, two joint plenaries providing crossed views on a given topic, and one joint session with the European Headache Federation)
- 10 Masterclasses (8 Clinical, 1 Research and 1 Nursing Masterclass)
- 3 Host Society/"French" sessions: The French Research Network (RFRD) Session, 2 French Touch Sessions (organised by the LOC)
- 65 Workshops (55 topical, 6 debate, 4 demonstration)
- 1 SIP Session
- 5 ECR sessions (including the Rising Stars, Orientation, and Pain & Pastries formats)
- 9 Industry sessions
- 24 Guided Poster Walks
- 3 Best Poster Presentation (Poster Prize) sessions in clinical and basic research categories
- 3 Poster Viewing Sessions (daily exchange of posters on display)

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.1 – 2025 SPC/CHAIR REPORT \ PAIN IN EUROPE XIV: COMORBIDITY OF CHRONIC RAIN AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS:

This variety gave delegates a broad choice of scientific, clinical, and networking opportunities. However, feedback consistently noted the density of the programme, with up to eight parallel sessions leaving many participants feeling they had to miss content of interest. The long days, often extending until 19:00, contributed to fatigue; while poster walks scheduled during lunch created competition between getting a chance to get (and eat) food, industry symposia, and scientific discussion. This sense of overload may in part have resulted from the deliberate effort to ensure that each time slot contained activities of interest to all types of attendees..

Abstracts & Abstract-Driven Part of the Programme

Abstract Process

998 abstracts across two submissions rounds, with 921 accepted and 814 ultimately presented. Of these, 19 were included as oral communications within workshops, 232 featured as oral posters in guided walks, and 563 were presented in poster viewing sessions. Abstracts came from 63 countries, with the strongest contributions from France, the UK, Belgium, Spain, and Germany.

Beyond the numbers, significant efforts were made in Lyon to provide greater visibility and exposure for abstracts and abstract-driven sessions.

- One major innovation was the inclusion of selected high-quality, thematically relevant abstracts directly
 into 18 workshops. This approach allowed presenters to showcase their work in front of large, engaged
 audiences, moving away from the previous format where abstract-only sessions were placed in parallel
 with workshops and regularly only drew smaller groups.
- Another key development was the design of guided poster walks that were thematically linked to workshops, with workshop chairs directly involved in their selection, organisation, and promotion. This integration not only raised the profile of the poster content but also reinforced scientific coherence across the programme. While the 24 poster walks (eight running in parallel on one day) were well attended and interactive, their sheer number and placement during lunch created some logistical strain and will need to be reconsidered for future editions. Ideally, attendees should not have to choose between attending a poster walk, visiting other posters that flagged as interesting, or join industry-sponsored activities, or simply resting a bit between the morning and afternoon sessions.
- The introduction of Best Poster Presentation (ePoster) sessions every morning provided another successful platform for abstract exposure. These sessions were held in a high-traffic open hallway, yet spacious enough to comfortably accommodate large audiences, with effective audio set-up and high-profile faculty serving as the jury. They drew strong attendance and created a lively, interactive atmosphere that added visibility to early-stage research.

Collectively, these changes reflected a deliberate strategy to weave abstract content into the core of the congress, giving presenters greater opportunities for recognition and reinforcing the scientific vibrancy of the meeting.

One of the central processes for improvement identified for the next congress relates to the abstract submission categories. In recent editions, these have grown to the point where they no longer provide clear reference value. For Glasgow, a complete restructuring is recommended to establish broader, better-defined categories that ensure accurate classification at the point of submission.

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.1 – 2025 SPC CHAIR REPORT PAIN IN EUROPE XIV: COMORBIDITY OF CHRONIC PAIN AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDE BREAKING THE CYCLE

This will improve data quality, streamline reviewer assignment, and enable more coherent thematic session building while directly connecting abstracts to workshops submitted under the same categories. In addition, restructured categories can be used across the congress platform to support navigation, personalised itineraries, and filtering functions, while also allowing EFIC to track performance across categories, identify emerging trends, and align with strategic sponsor and stakeholder interests. In addition to these structured categories, an open keyword system could be considered to capture novel themes. In this way, the abstract process can become not only a logistical mechanism but also a driver of scientific coherence, user experience, and long-term positioning.

In line with this restructuring, we would aim to introduce a refinement of submission types, with the inclusion of a dedicated category for unfinished research (presentation of study protocols or preliminary results), as well as a dedicated category for clinical case reports. These changes would eliminate the current need to accept incomplete abstracts with the requirement for later resubmission in updated form. By defining these dedicated submission types, the selection process can be streamlined, with protocols/preliminary results and case report abstracts reviewed and evaluated under criteria appropriate to their nature. This would help categorize and group submissions more effectively and facilitate the creation of sessions built around contributions of the same type where relevant.

Programme Creation: Invited Programme & Faculty

A key feature of the EFIC Congress, particularly visible in Lyon, is its strong faculty engagement, with 271 invited faculty from 27 countries and an almost perfectly equal gender distribution (50.5% male, 49.5% female). Representation was led by France, the UK, Germany, and the United States, underlining the congress's broad international scope and the ability to bring together experts across the globe.

In terms of content evaluation, the scientific programme was generally very well received. Almost half of participants (48.5%) reported that the event fulfilled their educational goals very much, with a further 44.5% indicating that it did so somewhat. Nearly 60% of respondents felt that the information presented was well balanced and consistently supported by a valid scientific evidence base.

The feedback received on sessions confirms that delegates placed strong value on clinically relevant debates, plenaries, and masterclasses that provided direct translation to practice and reinforced the balance between research and applied clinical knowledge

Looking back on the process of programme creation, the number of workshop submissions was very high, with 118 received in the first round and a further 70 in the second (some of these being conditionally accepted and resubmitted workshops from the first round). The process of selecting workshops in the second round proved to be particularly challenging, as only 25% of the overall workshop slots remained available. This inevitably meant that a number of high-quality proposals had to be rejected, not due to lack of merit, but because their topics overlapped with themes already included in the programme.

In light of this experience, it has already been decided that for Glasgow - EFIC will return to a single workshop submission round. A consolidated call will simplify the process for submitters, provide the Scientific Programme Committee with a clearer and more complete overview of proposals at one point in time, and ensure that thematic overlaps can be addressed more strategically in the selection process. This approach will also take significant strain off the SPC by avoiding the duplica-

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

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tion of review work across two rounds, reducing administrative complexity, and creating more time for the Committee to focus on shaping the scientific balance and coherence of the final programme. Importantly, a single submission round will also give participants clearer and earlier feedback on the outcome of their proposals, allowing them to plan their involvement in the congress.

Programme Creation: Invited Programme & Faculty

Feedback and team reflections resulted in a comprehensive set of recommendations that will guide EFIC's future congress planning. These include reducing the number of parallel sessions to reduce overload, introducing more dynamic and varied formats in afternoon slots to reduce fatigue, and moving guided poster walks to dedicated times away from lunch and industry activities. The ECR programme will continue under a dedicated sub-committee, following its success in Lyon. Looking ahead to Glasgow 2027, we see special opportunities for strong collaboration with the British Pain Society and for deep inclusion of allied health professionals—particularly nurses—who will, so to speak, be "speaking the language" of the congress, with no language barrier. Overall, our aim is to broaden inclusion and engagement across EFIC by involving diverse communities of researchers, clinicians, allied health professionals, and patient representatives, as well as the many different specialties with an interest in pain, thereby fostering stronger local engagement. At the same time, we want to preserve EFIC's "young spirit" by actively involving younger generations, ensuring the congress remains forward-looking, dynamic, and relevant for the future of pain research and care.

Conclusion

The EFIC 2025 programme demonstrated the society's scientific strength and its ability to engage a broad international community. It was marked by strong abstract submissions—both in number and quality—high-level sessions across multiple formats, and the success of interactive elements such as poster walks and early-career activities, all of which we aim to continue building upon. With extensive "note-taking" and feedback provided we were able to clearly define and highlight the areas where processes and structures can be refined. These include addressing programme density, creating clearer categories and thematic tracks to better serve different audiences, and introducing "lighter" content designed to connect groups, provide space for networking and informal exchange, and strengthen the overall sense of community. Additional opportunities lie in experimenting with gamified or more playful elements, particularly in afternoon sessions, to counter "session fatigue", foster interaction, and create shared experiences.

With these lessons carried forward, EFIC 2027 in Glasgow is well positioned to deliver a congress that combines scientific excellence with an even more balanced, accessible, and participant-centered experience.

Prof. André Mouraux

SPC Chair, EFIC2025

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Dear Councillors,

The EFIC Congress 2025 in Lyon marked a clear sign of recovery and renewed growth, with notable increases not only in participant numbers but also in involvement and engagement. The congress saw a strong rise in workshops and abstracts submissions, high attendance across scientific sessions, and vibrant participation in the lively guided poster walks—demonstrating the community's enthusiasm to reconnect, share knowledge, and collaborate. This energy was felt throughout the event, with active discussion, high-quality presentations, and strong networking taking place in every part of the programme.

The 2025 congress was widely praised for its high-quality scientific programme, exceptional faculty, and engaging networking opportunities. The diversity and balance of sessions, the success of the guided poster walks, and the strong involvement of early-career researchers stood out as highlights. Many appreciated the venue's accessibility, the smooth onsite registration process, and the professionalism of the EFIC, KIT, and volunteer teams. The opening ceremony was particularly well received for its personal and memorable local touch, while social events such as the ECR party and President's Dinner provided valuable opportunities for connection.

Compared with 2023, where sponsorship and exhibition income stood at €324,257, 2025 saw an increase to €456,585, alongside higher industry interest in EFIC 2027. While still below pre-pandemic peaks, these figures, together with strong participant attendance and engagement and a strong community atmosphere onsite, point to a gradual but encouraging rebound in both attendance and industry confidence.

However, several operational challenges emerged across stakeholder groups. Key concerns included the exhibition hall's physical separation from the main scientific areas, competition between poster walks, industry sessions, and lunch breaks, and insufficient catering points leading to long queues. Some felt the programme was overly dense, with too many parallel sessions and insufficient breaks. The congress app's usability, limited printed materials, and late release also hindered navigation for some participants.

Specific improvement areas were identified for industry engagement, programme structuring, and onsite logistics. Recommendations included repositioning the exhibition area to increase traffic, enhancing industry visibility in the programme and app, introducing more varied session formats to reduce fatigue, and enhancing the representation of allied professional groups in the programme. Other suggestions involved increasing space for poster areas, improving headset distribution for guided walks, providing clearer session signage, offering healthier lunch options, and expanding coffee and water access. Early, detailed online information—at least a year in advance—was seen as crucial for both attendees and industry partners.

Looking ahead to EFIC 2027 in Glasgow, the feedback points towards balancing the congress's strong scientific identity with a more attendee-friendly experience. Stakeholders emphasised maintaining the programme's academic excellence while adapting to evolving delegate demographics, especially attracting clinicians and engaging younger generations. Creating more informal networking spaces, optimising scheduling to reduce competition between scientific and industry activities, and enhancing local promotional efforts were seen as strategic priorities. With these adjustments, EFIC is well positioned to build on its reputation as a leading pain congress while addressing the operational details that shape attendee satisfaction.

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE 9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Summary of budget EFIC Congress 2025

PAIN IN EUROPE XIV - 14th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC™ LYON 24 - 26 APRIL 2025

BUDGET OVERVIEW EXPENSES

BUDGE TO VERVIEW EXPENSES				
	PLANNING as of September 2024	ACTUAL as of February 2025	ACTUAL as of June 2025	
 EXPENSES	1500 paying participants and 300 free registrations	1500 paying participants and 300 free registrations	1500 paying participants and 300 free registrations	
1 Promotion, Printing, Materials	60,250.00€	61,201.80 €	58,301.80€	
2 Venue, technical equipment, exhibition	43 <mark>1,718.14 €</mark>	429,977.39€	413,201.55€	
3 F&B, Social Events	125,417.80 €	100,617.80 €	125,948.75€	
4 Staff, Faculty	162,000.00€	162,000.00€	176,732.00€	
5 Scientific Management	0.00€	2,550.00€	4,655.00€	
6 Sponsoring, Exhibition	50,500.00€	63,090.92 €	65,833.80€	
7 Organisation	325,930.00€	324,681.82 €	373,535.46€	
8 Hybrid technology	tba	/ n/a	n/a	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,155,815.94 €	1,114,119.73€	1,114,119.73€	
INCOME	1,256,057.50 €	1,456,335.00€	1,456,335.00 €	
PROFIT FOR EFIC	109,241.56 €	312,215.27 €	312,215.27 €	

Exhibition and sponsorship in 2025:

OVERVIEW FINAL NUMBERS

EXHIBITION 185,286.50 €	TOTAL 536,362.50 €	SPONSORSHIP 351,076.00 €
- 24 commercial exhipitors		- 5 lunchtime sessions
(294 sqm)		- 3 product workshops
- 10 non-commercial exhibitors (40 sqm)		- 2 email-blasts
······································		- 1 push notification
		- Exclusive Wifi-Sponsorship
		- Exclusive Floor Stickers
		- 4 Meeting Rooms

Exhibition and sponsorship comparison 2017-2025

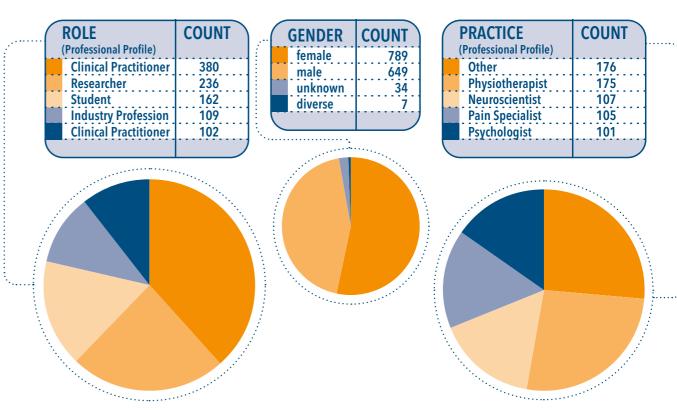
	2017	2019	2022	2023	2025
Sponsorship	€ 400,147	€ 400,000	€ 120,000	€ 140,000	€ 351,076
Exhibition	€ 340,575	€ 481, 573	€ 225,000	€ 184,257	€ 185,287
Total	€ 740,722	€ 981,573	€ 325,000	€ 324,257	expected € 536,363

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Participation numbers and demographics

Congress in I	lumbers:	
• Sessions:	8 in parallel	Registration:
• Posters:	807 in total	1714 paying participants 414 free participants (incl EFIC
• Speakers:	284 speakers (excluding poster presenters)	Team & Volunteers=36) = 2128 in total
• Abstracts:	1340	 Total number of companies exhibiting and sponsoring: Sponsors: 9 Exhibitors: 24



Looking ahead to EFIC 2027 in Glasgow, our strategy is focused on building on the strengths of the Lyon congress while directly addressing the feedback received from all stakeholder groups. The guiding principle is to shape a congress that delivers exceptional value to its core communities—clinicians, scientists, nurses, physiotherapists and allied healthcare professionals—while also embracing innovation, improving the attendee experience, and ensuring strong industry engagement. We will explore the option for tailored streams for key communities while preserving EFIC's collaborative spirit and opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchange.

The scientific programme will continually be improved for clarity, relevance, and engagement. We will aim at clinicians benefiting from dynamic, evidence-based, and interactive sessions, developed early in the planning process to match their learning needs. Basic scientists and allied health professionals will have dedicated content that reflects their professional priorities, with opportunities for integration into broader plenary discussions. We also expect to introduce shorter sessions, lighter content blocks, and varied formats to maintain energy and focus throughout the day.

9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Scheduling and flow will be a major focus for improvement. We aim to separate the competing demands of the lunch break–food, poster sessions, and industry symposia—so that each receives the attention it deserves. Dedicated poster-only time slots, ideally in the afternoon, will preserve the value of poster walks without detracting from industry sessions or meal breaks. Oral poster presentations will remain distinct from lower-tier parallel sessions, highlighting their scientific merit and encouraging engagement. The highly successful Early Career Researcher (ECR) programme will again be delegated to a dedicated sub-committee, ensuring that content remains fresh, relevant, and in tune with audience expectations, while freeing EFIC staff to focus on other strategic priorities.

We will conduct a deeper analysis of non-attendees to understand their barriers, especially for audiences who must self-fund, and use these insights to adapt content, pricing, and outreach. Local promotion will start earlier, with stronger integration between EFIC, the Local Organising Committee, and national societies to maximise the regional audience. At the same time, we will explore what the next generation—Gen Z—expects from a congress, assessing whether incremental adjustments or more radical changes are needed to meet their preferences for learning, networking, and engagement.

The strategic measures introduced for EFIC 2025 will continue to underpin our approach in 2027, with further refinement and expansion. The date shift to April will be maintained to avoid clashes with WIP, ESRA, and other key events, ensuring maximum visibility and attendance. Our competitive business proposition for exhibitors and sponsors will continue, expanding beyond traditional pharma to attract new technology, devices, and digital health companies. A lean, sustainable budget will remain a priority, supported by in-house operational excellence, transparent collaboration with our PCO, and cost-efficient supplier contracts. Promotional efforts will continue to position EFIC as a hub for education, certification, and professional development, while EFIC Academy will continue to extend our reach beyond the onsite audience. The ECR programme—featuring orientation sessions, networking lounges, training workshops, and tailored advice sessions—will be further developed with the Rising Star programme. We also wish to keep the initiatives to integrate poster walks with workshops, enhance the EFIC booth as a hospitality focal point, and host satellite events. Sustainability will remain central, with an emphasis on local sourcing, vegetarian options, compostable serviceware, waste reduction, public transport incentives, and environmentally responsible suppliers and exhibition practices.

With these targeted improvements, EFIC 2027 will be positioned not only to maintain its reputation as Europe's leading pain congress, but to grow its reach and relevance in a changing environment. By combining high-quality, tailored content with optimised scheduling, modern engagement tools, sustainable practices, and a forward-thinking approach to audience needs, EFIC is aiming to create a congress experience that inspires participation, fosters collaboration, and strengthens our community.

Inbar Caspi

Congress Manager, EFIC

10 - EFIC ACADEMY

10.1 – INTRODUCTION

The European Pain Federation Academy is our flag-ship education programme, bringing together everyone who wishes to advance their competences through the Federation's comprehensive multi-professional education programme.

Membership of the EFIC Academy allows individuals to have access to our most comprehensive educational projects and receive discounts on various events. All individual healthcare professionals and researchers looking for high quality pain education provided by leading European educators are invited to join the EFIC Academy.

At present, we have dedicated content streams targeted at physicians, physiotherapists, psychologists, and nurses, with an interprofessional pain management content stream aiming to further promote the multidisciplinary philosophy of EFIC

10.2 - BENEFITS

Current benefits include:

- Free attendance to the EFIC Virtual Pain Education Summit of the year in which the membership is active
- Free access to the EFIC Academy Education Platform
- Free access to the European Journal of Pain
- Free access to the EFIC Discord Community
- Reduced fees for the EFIC Congress "Pain in Europe" 10% discount on the fee (excl. VAT)
- Reduced fees for the EFIC exams 25% discount on fees (excl. VAT)
- Networking and mentoring opportunities

10.3 - PRICING

As of September 2025, the EFIC Academy pricing is structured to be affordable to all clinicians regardless of profession and geography.

<i></i>	***************************************
Catagory	Rate per annum
Regular (physicians from World Bank High Income Countries and pharmaceutical/ MedTech industry professionals)	145.00€
Discounted (physicians from World Bank Lower- and Middle-Income Countries)	85.00€
Allied Professionals (physiotherapists, psychologists, nurses)	75.00€
Students	35.00 €

Prices as of September 2025 - excluding VAT.

10 - EFIC ACADEMY

10.4 - ACTIVITIES

In continuity with previous years, new sessions were added every two weeks on the EFIC Academy Education Platform.

The accreditation of 12 medical modules on our Education Platform by UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) resulted in 7.5 CME credits being awarded to EFIC Academy members between September 2024 and September 2025. The renewal of UEMS accreditation, and further expanding EFIC Academy Platform's educational scope, are priorities to be pursued in the upcoming year. This includes seeking accreditation from bodies associated with nursing, psychology, and physiotherapy.

In 2025, the French subtitling of the video materials was made available on the Education Platform for many pain medicine modules. This process will be extended to the physiotherapy, nursing, and psychology modules.

In June 2025, a selection of recorded session from the 14th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC®, were exclusively released on the EFIC Academy Education Platform.

Between May and July 2025, a new kind of content the "EFIC Clinical Case videos" has been made available to the EFIC Academy members. It consists in a series of interactive videos, covering and analysing the most common chronic pain conditions, realised with the financial support of Grünenthal GmbH (e.g. video production and faculty travel costs). Each video follows a fixed structure explaining the main phases of chronic pain management (e.g., history taking, examination, diagnosis, treatment proposal), with pop-up interactions providing the viewer with extra in-depth information.

Webinars continue to play a key role in EFIC's mission of promoting multidisciplinary in pain management. In 2024 and 2025 EFIC organised various webinars to disseminate latest research findings, clinical practices, and policy developments, connecting researchers, clinicians, and stakeholders across Europe.

10.5- NUMBER OF MEMBERS

As of September 2025, the EFIC Academy has 928 members broken down by these categories:

Catagory	Number of members
Regular	327
Discounted	107
Allied Professionals	236
Students	258

10 - EFIC ACADEMY

10.5.1 - PROFESSIONAL SUB-GROUPS

As the Academy brings together four key professions working in pain management, we aim to create and solidify these sub-groups within EFIC, which is most visibly represented by the number of registrants identifying with these professions.

As of September 2025, the sub-groups look like the following:

Catagory	Number of members
Physician	689
Physiotherapist	149
Psychologist	40
Nurse	50

10.5.2 - PLANS FOR THE EDUCATION PLATFORM IMPROVEMENT

Starting in 2025, EFIC dedicated effort and resources in further expanding and improving the EFIC Academy Education Platform.

This process includes reflections on aspects strictly related to Education Platform (functionality, technical aspects, and usability) and marketing aspects of the EFIC Academy as a whole (attractiveness, audience and its needs, benefits that EFIC can offer, and innovative ways to create content for the Education Platform).

These considerations aim to concretise into:

- A newer and more functional outlook of the EFIC Academy Education Platform, improving its usability;
- A reorganisation of the EFIC Academy Education Platform content, adapting it to the diverse needs of the EFIC Academy members;
- An expansion of formats offered on the EFIC Academy Education Platform, to enhance the EFIC Academy's attractiveness to potential new members;
- A more structured workstream of content production, to improve volunteers' contribution;
- A reassessment of the EFIC Virtual Summit, adapting it to the current post-pandemic context and further catering for the needs of the EFIC Academy members.

Full implementation and conclusion of these processes is expected in 2026.

11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

11.1 - SUBMISSION FIGURES, REJECTION RATES, IMPACT FACTOR

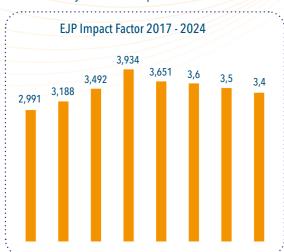
The number of papers submitted to European Journal of Pain (EJP) has steadily increased over the past years. In 2019, submissions reached an exceptionally high level, largely reflecting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which gave many researchers more time at home to focus on their work. Submissions then declined from 2020 to 2022, but there has been a significant and steady rise since 2023. In 2024, EJP received 928 submissions—an increase of about 30% compared to 2022. Looking ahead, we anticipate an even higher number of submissions in 2025, as more than 680 manuscripts have already been received this year.



Despite the significant increase in submissions in 2024, the median time from submission to first decision remained very short: only 3 days when including editorial rejections (i.e., manuscripts declined without external review) and 42 days when considering only peer-reviewed manuscripts. These timelines have remained stable since 2023 and are markedly shorter than those reported in 2021 and 2022. This improvement is likely due to changes in the panel of Section Editors and the increased involvement of highly qualified members of the Editorial Advisory Board as reviewers. Encouragingly, this trend toward shorter decision times also appears to be continuing in 2025.

The rejection rate increased slightly from 80% in 2023 to 84% in 2024. Of these, 75% were "editorial rejections," proposed directly by Section Editors or the Editor-in-Chief before external peer review. Such decisions apply to manuscripts judged unlikely to pass external refereeing or considered to add too little value to the existing literature. Editorial rejections are intended to save authors time and to preserve the efforts of external reviewers. We strive to notify authors of these decisions within 10 days.

Unlike most journals, our editorial rejection letters are almost always accompanied by a brief commentary outlining the reasons for the decision, suggesting possible ways to address the issues, and, when appropriate, recommending alternative journals where the work might be a better fit. Since January 2022, an agreement with our publisher, Wiley & Sons, has further supported this process: for a selection of rejected papers, a "Transfer Desk Assistant" automatically suggests other Wiley journals that may be suitable publication venues after revision.



After a somewhat artificial increase of the Journal's Impact Factor (IF) 2020, reaching almost 4, it is stable since 2021 at about 3.5.

11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

11.2 - EDITORIAL BOARD - SECTION AND MANAGING EDITORS

Editor-in-chief: Didier Bouhassira Deputy Editor: Luis Garcia-Larrea

Section Editors: Since the last report the list of section-editors remained unchanged.

The panel of Section Editors as of September 2025:

Kirsty Bannister, London, UK

Michel Barrot, Strasbourg, France

Sophie Baudic, Paris, France

Ulf Baumgärtner, Hamburg, Germany

José Biurrun Manresa, Entre Rios, Argentina

Daniel Ciampi de Andrade, Aalborg, Denmark

Luana Colloca, Baltimore, USA

Michele Curatolo, Seattle, USA

Geana Paula Kurita, Kopenhagen, Denmark

Jörn Lötsch, Frankfurt, Germany

Lance McCracken, Uppsala, Sweden

Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, Münster, Germany

Michael Schäfer, Berlin, Germany

Andrea Truini, Rome, Italy

Tine Vervoort, Ghent, Belgium

Jan Vollert, London, UK

Harriet Wittnik, Utrecht, The Netherlands

You can see them all at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/editorialboard.html

Managing Editor Dr Bettina Haake-Weber and Assistant Editor Dr Koichi Hagiwara keep working as pillars of the EJP day-to-day logistics. Their proficiency should be underscored in this report: their continual interaction with Chief and Section Editors, Authors, and Publisher, including responses to multiple (and often repetitive) author queries, ensure a smooth editorial process under a continuous increase in the number of papers to handle.

11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

11.3 - EJP ADVISORY BOARD

The EJP Advisory Board (AB) is currently composed of 77 members, who represent a first line of high-quality potential reviewers for submitted papers. Regularity long-standing AB members with little or no late activity are asked to step down and we try to progressively substitute these by young colleagues, in particular young she-doctors. The AB was last revised and updated in May 2025. Decisions to update the Advisory Board are taken collegially, during the annual Editorial Board meeting, by the Board of Section Editors and the Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial Office keeps statistics of the relative contribution of AB members each year, and gives useful advice to take such decisions.

The 2024 Advisory Board can be consulted at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/editorialboard.html

11.4 - PUBLISHED PAPERS

Access of EFIC members to full text: Member of national pain societies contributing to EFIC are entitled to free access to papers published in the EJP, irrelevant of whether these papers are or are not categorised as 'open access'. Once in the EFIC main Webpage (https://europeanpainfederation.eu/), you need (i) to click on the "Our Journal" menu, then (ii) login with your EFIC member password, and (iii) click to the section "Access the European Journal of Pain" which appears in a further page. While the ergonomics to get the pdf access still needs to be improved (three consecutive pages needed), the procedure is robust and reliable, and should be widely explained and disseminated to Chapter members, so as they can access freely to published papers.

Publications: In 2024 a total of 152 items were published: 132 original papers, review, position papers and short communications and in addition 6 commentaries, 13 letters-to-the editor and 1 obituary. Since January 2025 EJP is running a continuous publication process. 10 issues per volume are published: every paper accepted for publication and typeset by the production office will automatically be included in the next issue that will be "closed" at its publication date. Due to this new process and the publication of EJP's complete backlog in the first three issues of 2025 already 111 items were published in 2025 until june.

The EJP translated: Cooperation between EJP-EFIC with Publisher Wiley and external sponsors allowed papers to be translated into Portuguese/Brazilian during the 2018-20 period and since 2022 a global EFIC-Wiley agreement allows all papers published in the EJP to be translated and to appear in the Journals of National Pain Societies members of EFIC. The two conditions are that the translation itself is at the charge of the receiving Society, and that any citation to the article, including after translation, must correspond to the original paper in EJP. Since 2022 the three Editors' Choice articles chosen per issue are sent to all EFIC chapters.

11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

11.5 - PAIN COLLECTIONS

Homogenous series of papers on a given topic from different EJP issues are joined together as "pain collections", which are virtual issues that assemble papers on a same topic having appeared in different issues of the EJP. These collections can be consulted in full from the Journal's Web page to provide a broad and immediate access to the subject.

A new collection on "Artificial Intelligence in Pain Medicine" was set up in August 2025, including 16 papers published in EJP, accompagnied by an editorial by Jörn Lötsch: "Integrating Al and machine learning into pain research and therapy".

(https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/virtual_issues.htm).

11.6 - AI IN PUBLISHING AND OPEN ACCESS

11.6.1. The use of AI in scientific publications is no science fiction any more but probably widely used. EJP implemented in its instructions for authors and in its submission form a required statement if and for what AI was used.

11.6.2. The publisher Wiley has a strong drive to become EJP an open access journal. At the moment about 68% of EJP's content is published as payed open access. OA-articles are more cited and receive more attention. More and more institutions have an OA transformational-agreement with Wiley for not only full-OA-journals but also hybrid journals like EJP. Papers from R4Life-countries recieve OA-options for free (Research4Life provides institutions in lower- and middle-income countries with online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content.)

11.7 - OUTLOOK: NEW ONLINE SUBMISSION SYSTEM

At the moment and since many years the journal is managed through the online submissions system Editorial Manager© run by the company ARIES. By the end of 2023 the publisher Wiley announced that the publisher will end the contract with ARIES and transfer the journal to their newly developed platform Research Exchange© providing tools for submission, screening, review and transfer to production. The platform for EJP is now set up but before the journal's transfer can start, some important points need to be clarified like transfer of EJP's archive and contact details.

11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

11.8 - CONCLUSIONS

The European Journal of Pain remains in a position of scientific excellence, but also confronted to multiple challenges, in particular the increasing concurrence of periodicals attracting authors via less stringent requirements to publish. We pursue an active strategy to gain visibility, enhance content dissemination, and optimise papers' selection to improve our position in the fields of pain science and pain clinics. This policy is accomplished by a panel of high-level editors and has translated since 5 years in a steady increase of the number of submissions. The European Pain Federation Councillors and Board members have a crucial role to play by enhancing the recognition of the Journal in their respective countries, prompting talented colleagues to submit their best productions to EJP, and citing the Journal in their own papers, to keep the EJP as the indisputable reference of pain research and clinics in Europe.

Submitted to the Council on 20.08.2025

Didier Bouhassira

Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Pain

12 - FINANCES

12.1 - HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Councillors,

I address you today as I approach my final year as Honorary Treasurer. It has been a rocky road financially for most organisations.

3 years out from the height of the pandemic, I believe EFIC is now recovering well and will soon be approaching profitable years. Improvement is coming in the form of decreased losses, which should be seen as progress in the current environment, though we should still be concerned about the situation.

We had a financially successful congress in 2025 compared to other recent congresses, though the income and expenditure are booked for the upcoming financial year. Other sources of income such as the Academy, Exams and EU-funded projects are growing steadily but still slowly.

Our balance at the end of the last financial year stood at 2,538,020.18 euros, with a negative balance of -171,782.88 euros for the year. However, it should be made clear that our accountants advised deferring some of the expenditure (approximately 240k) to 2025 in order to book some losses in a year of increased income (when the profit from Lyon is realised).

These measures were advised in order to alleviate concerns that our auditors would undertake more vigorous oversight of our book-keeping in relation to continued losses since 2020.

We should therefore look at the figures for 2024 with an asterisk, and note that they do not represent a full picture of our financial performance. It is advisable to look also at 2025, where some deferred expenditure is allocated.

2025 would have delivered a year very close to profit if these measures were not taken, however we now expect a loss in 2025 even with the profit from Lyon.

In effect, the peaks and troughs have been flattened out and the overall performance across the two years presents a more accurate picture. We have reduced the large losses experienced in the aftermath of the pandemic, though we are still some distance from balanced budgets and need to exhibit continued restraint and some cost-cutting measures over the years to come.

With a small further improvement in income and expenditure we should be close to balanced budgets within the next biennial cycle. It is frustrating to not achieve balanced biennial budgets already, but our losses have been stabilised significantly since 2022.

Continued conservatism in spending is required, along with a focus on key areas of income generation.

Lyon was a major step forward from the 2022 and 2023 congresses, generating a profit that significantly contributed to our finances for the first time since 2019.

We hope to see further improvement as we plan for 2027 in Glasgow.

12 - FINANCES

12.1 - HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

We should develop expansion plans for areas of income generation in our control, such as Academy and Exams. We should also re-evaluate sponsors environment and establish strong plan building towards 2027.

We should continue with strong Lyon organisational processes and work hard to build larger audience for Glasgow. We should also contain team costs for the foreseeable, and establish areas of cost restraint for 2025-2026

Patrice Forget

Honorary Treasurer

12 - FINANCES

12.2 - 2024 ACCOUNTS CLOSE

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals	
Office expenses	28,500.00	17,270.74	
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	40,000.00	43,097.33	
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	18,000.00	15,930.31	
Service providers and consultans	296,150.00	89,794.85	
EU-funded projects	87,000.00	36,607.18	
Meeting expenses	16,500.00	18,612.29	
Events	1,100,000.00	7,134.94	
EJP	93,000.00	77,592.53	
Educational programs	168,500.00	181,358.08	
Salaries	390,430.41	380,354.75	
Depreciation	27,827.35	27,840.07	
EXB expenses	20,400.00	20,838.74	
Taxes	16,750.00	3,366.81	
Financial costs	100,600.00	-30,108.98	
Total Operating Expenditure	2,399,657.76	889,689.64	
PROJECT EXPENDITURE			
EGG	0.00	0.00	
SIP	60,000.00	58,996.70	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,459,657.76	948,686,34	

OPERATING INCOME	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals
EJP	211,878.67	255,173.20
Industry support	106,000.00	49,066.67
Miscellaneous		
– Contributing members	120,000.00	94,164.02
– Examinations	48,000.00	63,184.20
– EU-funded projects	63,000.00	52,249.42
– Rental income	0.00	0.00
– Secretarial services	0.00	-4,832.76
– Other	35,000.00	172,648.27
Congress	1,300,000.00	5,000.00
Financial income	18,888.00	7,457.46
Total Operating income	1,912,766.67	694,110.48
PROJECT INCOME		
EGG	10,000.00	17,945.21
SIP	120,000.00	64,847.77
TOTAL INCOME	2,042,766.67	776,903.46

12.3- AUDITOR'S REPORT



STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT **ASSOCIATION EFIC EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(TRADE REGISTER OF BRUSSELS, DUTCH DEPARTMENT - VAT BE 0470.073.480)

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of IVZW EFIC European Pain Federation (the Organisation), we hereby present our statutory auditor's report. It includes our report on the annual accounts as well as on the other legal and regulatory disclosure requirements. This forms an integrated whole and is indivisible

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting of members of 19 September 2023, following the proposal formulated by the board of directors. Our statutory auditor's mandate expires on the date of the general meeting of members deliberating on the annual accounts closed on 31 March 2026. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the Organisation for 14 consecutive years.

Report on the annual accounts - Unqualified opinion

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2025, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 3.929.128,32 and profit and loss account showing a profit loss for the year of €.171.782,88.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31 March 2025, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium,

Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence

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12 - FINANCES

12.4 - AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Colleagues

As Chair of the Audit Committee, it is my duty to provide the Council with a statement on the accounts for the last financial year; in this case, from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025. I can confirm that our statutory auditor, VGD, declare that the Federation's accounts give a true and fair view of the organisation's net equity and financial position, without qualification. I have discussed the accounts directly with the Treasurer and Executive Office and I am happy with the status of the 2024 accounts. On that basis I recommend the Council approve the accounts for the last financial year.

Ana Pedro

Chair, Audit Committee

12.5 - 2025 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget
Office expenses	17,270.74	43,100.00
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	43,097.33	40,000.00
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	15,930.31	12,750.00
EU-funded projects	36,607.18	80,000.00
Service providers and consultans	89,794.85	338,350.00
Meeting expenses	18,612.29	20,000.00
Events	7,134.94	1,217,000.00
EJP	77,592.53	80,000.00
Educational programs	181,358.08	199,500.00
Salaries	380,354.75	388,950.00
Depreciation	27,840.07	27,750.00
EXB expenses	20,838.74	23,400.00
Taxes	3,366.81	21,250.00
Financial costs	-30,108.98	155,248.27
Total Operating Expenditure	889,689.64	2,647,298.27
PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
EGG	0.00	52,500.00
SIP	58,996.70	60,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	948,686.34	2,759,798.27

12 - FINANCES

12.5 - 2025 BUDGET

OPERATING INCOME	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget	
ЕЈР	255,173.20	253,000.00	
Industry support	49,066.67	100,000.00	
Miscellaneous			
 Contributing Members 	94,164.02	100,000.00	
– Examinations	63,184.20	79,500.00	
– EU-funded projects	52,249.42	77,173.00	
– Rental income	0.00	0.00	
– Secretarial services	-4,832.76	0.00	
– Other	172,648.27	0.00	
Congress	5,000.00	1,703,000.00	
Financial income	7,457.46	5,425.00	
Total Operating income	694,110.48	2,318,098.00	
PROJECT INCOME			
EGG	17,945.21	46,027.39	
SIP	64,847.77	120,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	776,903.46	2,484,125.39	

13 - TRANSPARENCY

The European Pain Federation EFIC is a strong believer in the value of transparency in order to establish trust in the scientific world, and in particular the role of medical societies. The information provided below aims to provide a coherent insight into the Federation's activities and finances, in particular concerning our relationship with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

What percentage of EFIC's income comes from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

EFIC's main sources of operating income are our congress, our Academy scheme, our journal income and industry partnerships.

Across 2023-2024, EFIC had a total operating income of 2,294,595.77 euros.

- 907,880.92 euros came from EFIC's congress.
- 209,519.52 euros came from our Academy scheme
- 155,935.30 euros came from industry partnerships.
- 478,274.03 euros came from our Journal (royalties and expense budget)
- The remaining income comes from smaller sources such as office rental income and secretarial services, our examinations, EU-funded projects and others.

Congress income can be divided primarily between registration fees and sponsorship from industry. Income from congress sponsorship over this period amounted to 324,257.00 euros

Therefore, approximately 480,192.3 euros of our operating income came from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which comes to around 20.9 % as a percentage of total operating income.

How does EFIC work with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

Our congress is organised in line with all relevant compliance codes and laws concerning scientific meetings. Sponsorship and exhibition activities are labelled appropriately to avoid any confusion between the official scientific programme organised by EFIC and activities promoted by industry.

13 - TRANSPARENCY

Our industry partnership scheme is a means of receiving financial support from industry for our educational and scientific projects in a transparent and respectful way. EFIC retains independent control of its core work and objectives in the fields of education, research and advocacy. The scheme helps support existing work and defines mutually beneficial projects that can supplement the core work of the Federation and contribute to the fulfilment of its objectives. At present, no companies are members of this scheme.

Increasingly, EFIC aims to work with industry on the basis of defined projects, with terms established by EFIC and its experts, with financial support coming from industry for those defined projects. An example of this would be the EFIC-GRUNENTHAL-GRANT, where EFIC receive a budget equivalent to 10% of the total prize fund for the administrative management of the project, such as coordinating the work of expert reviewers, communicating with applicants, and promoting the project to potential applicants.

How does EFIC ensure it remains independent while working with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

Any financial support from or collaboration with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries is reviewed thoroughly by the EFIC Executive Board following advice from the Ethics and Transparency Committee. Engagement with companies is managed professionally by our experienced Executive Office team, to ensure that EFIC's values and objectives are followed. EFIC's educational, scientific and political direction is developed independently by EFIC's experts. In 2023, EFIC approved an ethics plan which is due to be implemented this year, establishing best practices and rules to follow to safeguard the organisation's independence and integrity.

EFIC is not beholden to any particular company or treatment. Multimodal pain management as supported by EFIC includes a wide variety of treatments including opioids, low strength analgesics, antidepressants, anti-epileptics, cannabinoids, and other treatments. EFIC also promotes non-pharmaceutical-based treatments such as physiotherapy, counselling, and distractive techniques such as meditation and mindfulness. Any engagement between EFIC and the pharmaceutical and medical device industry should reflect this broad biopsychosocial approach to pain management.

NOTES

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