

## Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform Annual Report 2025

### Introduction

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

### SIP Key Achievements in 2025

Key Achievements	Explanation
Prevention and NCDs: <b>Ongoing</b>	SIP made significant progress in advancing the prevention of chronic pain and its integration within wider EU non-communicable disease (NCD) policies in 2025. Several Members of the European Parliament submitted parliamentary questions to the European Commission on NCDs and chronic pain following SIP's outreach, increasing political attention to the need for prevention-focused approaches across EU health initiatives. SIP also updated its Policy Framework on the Delivery of Pain Care to include a dedicated section on prevention, strengthening the platform's guidance for national and EU policymakers on how to incorporate prevention into health systems, primary care, and workplace health strategies. A major milestone was the European Parliament event "From Burden to Prevention: Reframing Chronic Pain in EU Health Policy," which brought together policymakers, WHO representatives, clinicians, researchers, and patient advocates to highlight the urgency of integrating chronic pain prevention into EU policy. Together, these efforts positioned SIP as a leading voice in ensuring that prevention and chronic pain are recognised within the evolving EU NCD agenda. SIP will continue to work on the topic, with a focus on national level implementation.
Contribution to the SANT Public Consultation (Study) on Women's Health: <b>Completed</b>	SIP contributed to the SANT Committee's Public Consultation (Study) on Women's Health, ensuring that the gendered dimensions of chronic pain were reflected in the report. Through targeted input, SIP emphasised the higher prevalence of chronic pain among women, the frequent delays in diagnosis, and inequities in access to treatment. This contribution helped position chronic pain as an essential consideration within EU women's health policies and supported efforts to improve gender-

	sensitive approaches to prevention, care, and research. See <a href="#">here</a> .
Amendments to the Report on the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities post-2024: <b>Completed</b>	SIP provided amendments to the European Parliament's report on the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities post-2024. These amendments focused on ensuring that chronic pain—one of the most common causes of long-term disability in Europe—is better recognised within disability rights frameworks. SIP advocated for improved access to multidisciplinary pain management, stronger workplace adaptation policies, and the inclusion of chronic pain within disability assessments and support mechanisms. See <a href="#">here</a> .
Advocacy Toolkit Training: <b>Ongoing</b>	The SIP Advocacy Toolkit Training marked an important step in strengthening the capacity of SIP National Platforms to engage effectively in national and EU-level policy processes. The training equipped platform leaders with practical tools, guidance, and evidence-based messages to support their advocacy on prevention, access to treatment, ICD-11 implementation, and broader pain policy priorities. By providing structured information on how to use key SIP resources—including the SIP Book of Evidence, Position Papers, infographics, and ICD-11 materials—the training helped ensure consistent, high-quality advocacy across European countries. This investment in capacity-building reinforced SIP's commitment to empowering national actors, enhancing policy alignment across countries, and sustaining a coordinated European movement for improved pain prevention and management. SIP will be planning a roll-out of the Toolkit at national level.

## Key Policy Priorities in 2025

- International Classification of Diseases – 11<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-11) (via the EU Health Data Space)
- Access to Treatment – The Burden of Pain
- Non-communicable Diseases (NCD's) and Prevention of Chronic Pain

## Key Activities in 2025

- Outreach and engagement with the European Institutions and Health Permanent Representatives on the topic of ICD-11, Access to Treatment and NCD's and Prevention of chronic pain.
- Expanding SIP's network of health and health-related MEPs.

- Engagement and strengthening SIP's position within the WHO-FIC European Network.
- Attendance of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- Development of an ICD-11 Joint Statement.
- Development of a letter to the Health Commissioner Várhelyi co-signed by MEP Sokol on the importance of implementing ICD-11.
- Development of a letter to the Health Commissioner Várhelyi on the need to expand the focus to pain management and medicines on the Critical Medicines Act.
- Contribution to SANT's Committee public Consultation (Study) on Women's Health.
- Letter to SANT's Committee Chair to propose a Hearing on Chronic Pain.
- Amendments to the report on the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities post-2024 (2025/2057(INI)).
- Questions to the European Commission via MEPs on the topic of NCDs and chronic pain.
- Feeding directly into the Gender inequalities in health, in specific as regards gender-specific conditions Draft Report of the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament, as well as providing Amendments to the Report.
- Update of the SIP Policy Framework on the Delivery of Pain Care to include a section on prevention.
- Development of an Advocacy training for SIP NPs, targeted at the uptake of the SIP materials at national level.
- Development of the SIP Position Paper on Preventive Healthcare of Chronic Pain, including crucial aspects such as, health literacy, pain prevention, physical activity, vaccination, and employment adaptation and integration).
- Submission of a SIP response to the upcoming Cardiovascular Diseases Plan.
- SIP multi-stakeholder event at the European Parliament Event on the theme of prevention, entitled 'From Burden to Prevention: Reframing Chronic Pain in EU Health Policy'.
- Development of a Joint Webinar with ER-WCPT and EU-OSHA on employment reintegration and adaptation in the digital age.
- Translation of the SIP materials into the different SIP National Platforms languages.
- Wide dissemination plan for the Book of Evidence and the 5 infographics and 9 social media visuals on the SIP Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain.
- SIP Present at National Societies Congresses and meetings.
- SIP Workshop at EFIC 2025 Lyon.

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

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In late 2024, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform set its annual policy priorities and objectives for 2025. In recent years, SIP has grown substantially through the systematic involvement of scientific expert review in the development of SIP Position Papers, the organisation of multi-stakeholder policy events, and continued collaboration with both the European Union Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the WHO-FIC European Network. SIP has also strengthened its Stakeholder Forum, broader Network, National

Platforms, and relationships with European policymakers, placing all these actors at the centre of shaping SIP's annual policy direction. Throughout this growth, SIP has maintained a clear focus on key EU health policy priorities and initiatives relevant to its core objectives.

The inclusion of chronic pain in the WHO's International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11), remains a cornerstone of SIP's advocacy. Building on the progress achieved through the European Health Data Space (EHDS)—where an International Classification Coding system was referenced—SIP continued engaging with policymakers and stakeholders throughout 2025 to support the upcoming national roll-out of ICD-11. Through extensive outreach to the European Commission, Member States, WHO-FIC Network, and SIP National Platforms, SIP ensured that ICD-11's relevance for chronic pain, data accuracy, and health system interoperability remained visible in legislative discussions, while aligning with other sectors positively affected by ICD-11 implementation.

SIP continues to advance its work on Access to Treatment through the development, dissemination, and national roll-out of the SIP Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain, as well as through the creation of national case studies to support evidence-informed advocacy. SIP National Platforms have translated the SIP Book of Evidence infographics into their own languages and are widely disseminating them through national congresses, scientific meetings, and awareness activities. These resources provide policymakers and clinicians with accessible insights into pain prevalence, disability, and treatment gaps across Europe, strengthening advocacy with concrete national-level data.

SIP has also deepened its work on the prevention of chronic pain as a core policy priority in 2025, at a time when the European Commission is strengthening its focus on the prevention of non-communicable diseases—particularly cardiovascular diseases—and preparing a Cardiovascular Diseases Plan to be launched in spring 2026, to which SIP has already submitted a response to ensure that the pain dimension is fully acknowledged and appropriately considered. Building on the SIP Position Paper on Preventive Healthcare for Chronic Pain, SIP expanded its outreach to EU institutions, Permanent Representations, and international partners to promote prevention as a foundational component of public health and NCD strategies. Throughout 2025, SIP advocated for improved health literacy on pain, the role of structured physical activity, evidence-based acute pain management, early biopsychosocial intervention, and prevention-oriented workplace policies. SIP further updated its Policy Framework on the Delivery of Pain Care to include a dedicated prevention section. At international level, SIP attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva reinforcing its engagement with global prevention priorities, while its continued involvement in the WHO-FIC European Network ensured close collaboration on the integration of chronic pain within health information frameworks.

In October 2025, SIP hosted *"From Burden to Prevention: Reframing Chronic Pain in EU Health Policy"* in the European Parliament, bringing together EU policymakers, WHO representatives, researchers, clinicians, patient advocates, leading European organisations, the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA/WHO), and other key stakeholders engaged in chronic pain, NCDs, workplace health, and rehabilitation. Hosted by MEP Motreanu, MEP Andriukaitis, MEP Sokol and MEP Pietikäinen, the event highlighted chronic pain as Europe's most prevalent health condition and a major cause of disability and economic cost. SIP launched its *Position Statement on Preventive Healthcare for Chronic Pain*, calling for coordinated EU and national action across eight priority areas—including health literacy, structured exercise, early biopsychosocial intervention, workplace adaptation, cross-sector collaboration, and prevention-focused research. The event concluded with a unified call to integrate chronic pain prevention into EU and national health, employment, and research strategies.

SIP also continued to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders in workplace health and prevention. In collaboration with the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy (ER-WCPT), and in support of EU-OSHA's ongoing campaign on safe and healthy work in the digital age, SIP co-developed the 2025 webinar "*Movement Matters: Preventing Pain in Sedentary Workplaces.*" Jonas Verbrugghe (EFIC) presented EFIC's "On the MOVE" resources, while Miguel Perez Navarro (ER-WCPT) showcased the Move at Work campaign, highlighting practical strategies to prevent musculoskeletal pain and chronicity in increasingly sedentary and digitalised work environments. This collaboration reflects SIP's continued commitment to prevention, workplace adaptation, and cross-sector advocacy.

Looking ahead to 2026, SIP will prioritise strengthening its National Platforms, equipping them with the training, resources, and guidance needed to advance pain policy at national level. In line with the new European Commission's priorities—focusing on prevention, digitalisation, competitiveness, and resilience—SIP will intensify advocacy on key areas including NCD prevention, employment and economic implications of pain, the digital transformation of health through EHDS implementation and ICD-11 roll-out, and gender equity in health. By reinforcing National Platforms and engaging policymakers across all levels, SIP will ensure that pain remains visible and prioritised in Europe's evolving policy landscape.

## Key Performance Metrics

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The metrics below provide an insight into how SIP is performing. The metrics relate to the calendar year 2024-2025. We have selected those which we believe are most indicative of quality work and real impact.

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

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

- [Response](#) to the European Commission Public Consultation for the Upcoming Cardiovascular Health Plan
- SIP Joint Statement on ICD-11.
- Co-signed letter by MEP Sokol for Health Commissioner Várhelyi on the relevance of implementing ICD-11.
- Letter to the Health Commissioner Várhelyi on the need to expand the focus to pain management and medicines on the Critical Medicines Act
- Questions to the European Commission on the topic of [NCDs](#) and [chronic pain management](#).
- [SIP Position Paper](#) on Preventive Healthcare of Chronic Pain.
- SIP Advocacy Toolkit for SIP National Platforms.
- SIP Book of Evidence Case Studies.
- [SIP Book of Evidence Infographics](#) and social media visuals.
- Translation of SIP advocacy materials, including the infographics on the SIP Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain.
- [SIP Policy Framework](#) on the Delivery of Pain Care update with prevention section.

### 2. Number of Engagements with Political Stakeholders:

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

positions.

- MEP Sipra PIETIKAINEN (EPP, Finland)
- MEP Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, Malta)
- MEP Tomislav SOKOL (EPP, Croatia)
- MEP Dan-Stefan Motreanu (EPP, Romania)
- MEP Stelios KYMPOUROPOULOS (EPP, Greece)
- MEP Peter LIESE (EPP, Germany)
- MEP András KULJA (EPP, Hungary)
- MEP Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS (S&D, Lithuania)
- MEP Maria WALSH (EPP, Ireland)
- MEP Romana JERKOVIC (S&D, Croatia)
- European Commission DG SANTE – B4 Unit – Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- PERM REP: Slovenia (Health)
- PERM REP: Czech Republic (Health)
- PERM REP: Spain (Health)
- PERM REP: Belgium (Health)
- PERM REP: The Netherlands (Health)
- PERM REP: Hungary (Health)
- PERM REP: Malta (Health)
- PERM REP: Estonia (Health)
- EU-OSHA

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

This refers to engagements with other influential organisations in the Brussels policy-making sphere in 2023-2024:

- European Federation of Neurological Associations EFNA
- European Academy of Neurology EAN
- European Brain Council EBC
- European Cancer Organisation ECO
- European Psychiatric Association EPA
- European Region of World Physiotherapy ERWCPT
- Active Citizens Network ACN
- GAMIAN-Europe
- European Federation of Psychologists Associations (EFPA)
- Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries COTEC
- European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

### 4. Number of Subscribers to SIP Newsletter: 1,815 (965 in 2024) (Average open rate in 2025 is 33.9% and average click rate in 2025 is 2.5%)

This refers to the subscribers on our mailing list, indicating the 'circulation' of SIP's positions and recommendations, activities, and engagement opportunities.

### 5. Number of Views of the SIP Website and Relevant Pages in 2024: 13,990 – (1,366 in 2023)

This refers to the page views of SIP's landing page and SIP's relevant pages in 2024.

2024	2025
Landing Page: 2,611	Landing Page: 2,421



SIP Access to Treatment: 423	SIP Access to Treatment: 2,919
SIP Book of Evidence page: (Not available in 2024)	SIP Book of Evidence page: 267
SIP Upcoming Events: 232	SIP Upcoming Events: 305
SIP news item on the infographics: (Not available in 2024)	SIP news item on the infographics: 175
About SIP: 193	About SIP: 216

#### Top 10 Countries:

- Belgium
- United Kingdom
- Netherlands
- France
- Sweden
- Spain
- Italy
- Denmark
- Switzerland
- Ireland

#### 6. Number of Followers on SIP Social Media Channels: 5,150 (3, 43K in 2024 – 140% increase from the previous year)

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

- Facebook: 790 followers
- Twitter: 1.577K followers
- LinkedIn (page): 2,783K followers
- LinkedIn (group): 6.799K members

#### Top 10 countries:

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

#### Interesting Statistics:

- 467 posts
- A reach of 127,000 people

- Engagement rate of 3.53%

## **7. Number of SIP National Platforms in Operation: 13 + 2 in Development**

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

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

## **8. SIP National Platform Upcoming/Milestones**

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

- Belgium
  - Convening a Stakeholder Meeting in 2025.
  - Examining if they become an independent entity or if they continue to exist under the Belgian Pain Society.
- Finland
  - Governmental outreach and engagement with policymakers.
  - Translation of the SIP Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain.
- France
  - Eight meetings with policymakers and governmental institutions.
  - Integration of SIP France within the SFETD.
  - Advancing ICD-11 discussion at national level.
- Germany
  - Parliamentary meeting in June 2025 on hospital payment reform with 100 attendees.
  - SIP Germany will have its Annual Congress in autumn with anticipation of around 1,500 participants.
- Ireland
  - Implementation of a National Model of Care.
  - Utilisation of the SIP Book of Evidence.
  - Establishing new platform priorities and an advocacy planning strategy.
- Malta
  - Their most recent success was a video campaign focused on self-management and empowerment, which received substantial engagement, including 15,000 views on



- YouTube.
- They also distributed related leaflets through member organisations and pain clinics.
  - They are working towards a potential training session on chronic pain, depending on funding availability.
- Netherlands
    - Dutch translation of the SIP Book of Evidence on the Burden of Pain (with some terminology notes included).
    - Annual multidisciplinary pain congress on 15th December 2025 ('The Future of Pain' with Esther Pogatzki as keynote speaker).
  - Portugal
    - Sent 100+ emails to politicians in late 2024.
    - Held meetings with policymakers and health officials.
    - Discussions on implementing ICD-11 in Madeira.
    - SIP Portugal launched a national pain inquiry pilot project, in order to have better data on chronic pain in the workplace.
    - Incorporate pain into national proposals (May 2025).
    - Conduct a clinical survey on chronic pain in the workplace.
    - Launch a campaign on National Pain Day.
    - Engage with European countries on ICD-11.
  - Slovenia
    - SIP Slovenia is currently going through a challenging phase of human resources. More news to follow soon.
  - Spain
    - Actively participating in scientific events in 2025, while also promoting ICD-11 resources.
    - Engaging with policymakers at national level on the different SIP priorities.
    - Dissemination of the SIP Infographics on the streets of Málaga, Spain.
  - Switzerland
    - SIP Switzerland is currently going through some changes in leadership. More news to follow soon.
  - Sweden
    - SIP Sweden organised a workshop for associated professional organisations and patient organisations.
    - Swedish Pain Society Education Day.
    - European Day on Pain Awareness webinar.
    - ICD-11 implementation work at national level – ICD-11 is expected to be implemented in early 2026.
  - Denmark
    - SIP Denmark has received increased interest from healthcare research interested in pain – They will be pursuing that avenue.
    - SIP Denmark has applied and has been approved for the National Clinical Database on chronic pain.
    - SIP Denmark has started a communication line with the Health Data Group in Denmark.
    - Translation of the SIP resources – SIP Infographics.