



SIP National Platform Call

20th May 2026 Zoom

Attendees

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

Welcome and Introductions

- Patrice Forget (**PF**), SIP's Chair opened the meeting.
- Marta Bartnicka (**MB**), from EFIC/SIP, outlined the agenda of the day.
- Liisa Jutila (**LJ**), from PAE/SIP, introduced herself and welcomed participants.

SIP 2026 Priorities

MB briefly outlined SIP's priorities, as well as additional workstreams on NCDs and Prevention, Digital Health and ICD-11, and the EU-OSHA campaign.

Economic Considerations of Pain & Employment

- Position Paper: **Finalised** and actively disseminated via LinkedIn and BlueSky. Translation into multiple languages planned with NP support (to be initiated)
- Infographic to accompany the position paper: **Ongoing**
- Policy monitoring: **Ongoing**
- Policy event/roundtable discussion: **To be initiated**, planned for Q4 2026

Gender Equity and Pain

- Position Paper: **Finalisation and in process of review**
- Infographic on pain and gender equity in health: **To be initiated**
- Translations of the SIP Position Paper on Pain and Gender Equity in Health: **To be initiated** supported by AI with careful human verification by native speakers.
- Monitor gender policies with regards to health and pain: **Ongoing**

European Parliament engagement: Following SIP's contribution to the FEMM Committee Draft Report on gender inequalities in health, the explanatory statement now cites women's pain treatment as an example of ingrained bias in diagnosis and care. Amendments submitted by FEMM and SANT Committee members reference SIP's contribution, focusing on gaps in women's access to pain treatment and inclusion in health research.

PF encouraged members to frame gender equity improvements as benefiting all people living with pain and to identify national opportunities for events, talks, or symposia.



Ireland 2026

- Consultation response to the Irish Council Presidency: **Completed**
- Meeting with Marian Harkin: **Completed**. The meeting with the Minister of Education, Research and Innovation went well; key outputs included raising the EFIC Strategy with the Irish Research Minister, discussing ICD-11 implementation with the Irish Health Minister. ICD-11 position paper and the draft version of the Employment paper were sent.
- Policy event around the Irish Presidency 2026: **Not likely**
- Council conclusions on pain: **Not likely**

SIP National Platform Support

- Advocacy Toolkit Training roll-out: **Ongoing**
- Confirmed dates
 - Italy: 29 May (Rome)
 - Denmark: 17 September
 - Poland: 21 October
 - Sweden: 13 November
- Update of the SIP Roadmap Monitor: **Finalised** and to be disseminated to members for input in upcoming weeks.

NCDs and Prevention

- Engagement with policymakers and Global and EU institutions on integration of pain into EU and Global NCDs prevention frameworks: **Ongoing**
- Roll-out of the SIP Preventive Healthcare Position Paper: **Ongoing**
- Leaflet based on the Preventive Healthcare Position Paper: **To be initiated**
- Translation of the SIP position paper on Preventive Healthcare and Leaflet: **Ongoing**

PF noted that NCDs represent a strategic entry point for elevating pain as a distinct condition, emphasising the need to balance primary and secondary prevention to reduce the societal burden of chronic pain.

Digital Health and ICD-11

- Monitor the implementation of the EHDS and engage on ICD-11 related topics when and where appropriate with the EU Institutions: **Ongoing**
- Develop a publication or a joint webinar (12th June) in collaboration with WHO-FIC on the importance of implementing ICD-11 across Europe: **Ongoing**
- Outreach to national governments on ICD-11 implementation: **To be initiated**

PF mentions the obstacles and barriers shared between people and countries, as well as the facilitators and solutions.



Obstacles identified:

- **Technical:** IT system incompatibility across hospitals, legacy systems not supporting ICD-11 structure, and registry adaptation needs (mortality & morbidity)
- **Knowledge:** Limited coder familiarity with ICD-11 clustering, high conceptual complexity of post coordination, and varying coder readiness
- **Organisational:** Complex governance coordination (Malaysia Implementation Committee), uneven national agency readiness, large gaps between ICD-10 and ICD-11 structure
- **Communication:** Unstructured communication channels, delayed or fragmented information flow, lack of clear communication strategy

Barriers:

- **Policy & legal:** Need for new national guidelines and policies, as well as national mandates to require ICD-11 adoption
- **Structural:** International timeline misalignment, high dependency on steering committees and external support, diverse health data systems across facilities.
- **Financial:** Cited as the primary barrier across countries (e.g. Spain's health ministry). Advocacy efforts aim to quantify economic benefits to motivate investment
- **Technical:** interoperability gaps, limitations of automated coding tools

Facilitators:

- **Governance:** National steering committees, clear roles and responsibilities within the implementation team, task forces and translation committees (e.g. Nordic region, Sweden)
- **Communication:** National ICD-11 information portals (Norway, Australia), regular team channels and team updates
- **Training:** ICD-11 e-learning modules, train-the-trainer programmes, hands-on workshops and coder support tools
- **International collaboration:** Nordic ICD-11 Task Force (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden), WHO support and collaborating centres

Solutions:

- **Technical:** Pilot projects (dual coding, mortality batch processing), IT architecture review, translation workflow system
- **Organisational:** National ICD-11 roadmaps (as modelled by Malaysia, Australia, Rwanda), national stakeholder consultation meetings, clear governance structures for implementation
- **Training:** Cross-country training programmes, workshops for complex clustering, development of coding manuals, job aids & e-learning
- **Communication:** Awareness campaigns, national portals for ICD-11 updates, combined offline and online coder communication channels

LJ raised the importance of clear communication on automatic coding and highlighted that funding from national governments for training is not consistently forthcoming.



SIP National Platform Representatives from Spain **María Candelas Madariaga Muñoz** noted that EU Commission mandates and funding incentives are critical levers to compel national ICD-11 adoption.

PF invited members to share experiences of successful ICD-11 solutions and to contribute to knowledge exchange in future sessions.

EU-OSHA

- Joining the EU-OSHA new campaign: **To be initiated**
- Inviting EU-OSHA to SIP NCP in Q4: **To be initiated**
- Possible webinar on the topic of the EU-OSHA new campaign for Q4 2026 or Q1 2027: **To be initiated**

Other

- Advocacy Campaign for European Pain Awareness Day: **Ongoing**
- SIP NPC (National Platform Calls): **Ongoing**
- SIP NP bi-lateral calls: **Ongoing**

SIP National Platform Updates

SIP Belgium

- **National chronic pain website:** Almost ready to launch. The site will serve as a central hub of patient information in both French and Dutch, with a planned launch in June. Minor content adjustments still needed.
- **Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre report:** A new report on multimodal management of pain in Belgium has been published. SIP Belgium has formally requested inclusion in a government-backed committee influencing pain care recommendations and reimbursement and is awaiting a response.

SIP Sweden

- **Perspective paper:** Published, promoting partnership in chronic pain care and research. Poster presented at the “*2nd Global Conference on Person-Centred Care*” in Gothenburg, Sweden.
- **Proposed pre-conference workshop:** SIP Sweden is proposing a workshop on ‘Patient and Public Involvement in Pain Research’ in collaboration with the Scandinavian Association for the Study of Pain (SASP) and other Nordic SIP platforms. The workshop aims to increase knowledge of how patient representatives can be involved in pain research and to facilitate collaboration between patients and researchers.

Pain Alliance Europe Website



- The PAE website is being restructured to improve visibility for national platforms. Members will be invited to update their information to link national activities and advocacy efforts.

SIP Communications, Next Steps and Closure

- **SIP Newsletter:** Going out 30 June 2026.
- **MB** reminded that platforms should submit news and updates by 22 June 2026.
- **Next SIP National Platform Call:** 30 September 2026 at 13:30 CEST.
- **SIP Bilateral Calls:** **MB** updated on bilateral calls, which will continue to be scheduled; a few more calls remain to be arranged for 2026.
- **Social media:** **MB** encouraged members to follow SIP on LinkedIn and Bluesky and to stay up to date with the website, newsletter, etc.
- **AI-assisted translations:** **PF** emphasised that while AI tools assist with translation, human review by native speakers is essential to preserve the voice and tone of people living with pain.

The meeting closed at 14:53 CET