

Abstract for EUPHA 2020

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Type of abstracts: Policy

Topics (two to be selected):

S - Public health advocacy, policy and politics

R - Other public health issues

Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) as a thematic network – moving from European recommendations to national implementations

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Issue/problem

Pain puts a serious burden on individuals and society. The Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) aims at improving pain care policies by gathering a broad coalition of multi-disciplinary organisations.

Description of the problem

Uncontrolled pain can decrease people's quality of life and has a serious impact on individuals and society. The SIP Thematic Network focuses on improving policy-making via the creation of a network of stakeholders by sharing best practices and available data to draft recommendations with the goal to call for a European Framework addressing the societal impact of pain.

SIP has been selected in 2018 as a Thematic Network as part of the EU Health Policy Platform and produced a Joint Statement that focuses on four key areas: (1) Indicators, (2) Research, (3) Education, and (4) Employment. The Joint Statement has been used as a basis for projects and initiatives at national level, aligned with the four key priorities.

Results (effects/changes)

Nine SIP national platforms have been established in Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain under the guidance of the European SIP platform. Each platform has identified one or more key areas of the Joint Statement to take concrete actions for implementation. For example, SIP Belgium released a national SIP Joint Statement with the goal to improve the (re)integration of pain patients in the workforce and society.

Lessons

The selection of SIP as a Thematic Network on the EU Health Policy Platform provided opportunities to identify the key areas for impactful pain policy work and led to concrete actions for implementation on national level. More at www.sip-platform.eu

Main messages

Continuation of the dialogue on the EU Health Policy platform is important to improve existing policies and to increase collaboration amongst all key stakeholders.