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22ND EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

This year the SIP platform is celebrating its [10th Anniversary](#) which demonstrates the sustainability of the trustful collaboration of the four SIP partners: European Pain Federation EFIC, Pain Alliance Europe, Active Citizenship Network and Grünenthal. It is also a testimonial to the recognition of SIP by policy-makers at European and national level.

The first quarter of 2019 has already passed by with many exciting projects, meetings and other activities at both EU and national level. In Brussels, we are actively monitoring the expected political changes brought about by the European elections. We have begun contacting Members of the European Parliament to maintain their interest in the Societal Impact of Pain and seek their endorsement of the SIP Joint Statement. 11 MEPs have already endorsed our [Joint Statement](#) and we expect further politicians to follow soon. During the next weeks we will focus our communication activities on one of the four key topics of our Joint Statement Recommendations: **“Pain and Employment”**.

Pain and Employment was also one of the core topics of the last Brain, Mind and Pain Interest Group [meeting](#) eralier in March.

Significant achievements have been reported by the national SIP platforms; for example the meeting with companies arranged by [SIP Portugal](#) to address the impact of pain on employment. This event received an enormous national media response via television, radio and online channels. *“Early retirement, absenteeism, presentism and job loss are frequent consequences related to chronic pain, and more than 30% of workers in Portugal are affected. SIP stakeholders are thus calling for concrete actions to improve the employability of people suffering from chronic pain”* (Ana Pedro from SIP Portugal).

Another important milestone is the [new law in France](#) where pain management in children with cancer is now a priority.

A network of representatives from the existing SIP national platforms (NP) is currently preparing a toolkit to enable other countries to build their national platforms.

Finally, please block your calendar on **November 7th** for the [International SIP Symposium](#) in

Brussels. Registration will open soon on the SIP website. We look forward to welcoming you at an exciting SIP 2019 event!

Many other international and national SIP related conferences and events will take place in 2019, such as the 11th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC, on 4 – 7 September 2019 in Valencia. Find out more about upcoming events on pain and pain policy in our [SIP calendar](#).

Warm wishes,



Prof. Dr. Bart Morlion

Director of the Multidisciplinary Pain Centre of the University of Leuven, Belgium
President of the European Pain Federation EFIC



10 Years of Societal Impact of Pain - Congratulations to the SIP Community

In 2019, the SIP initiative has reached its 10th Anniversary which underlines the sustainability of the trustful partnership with European Pain Federation EFIC, Pain Alliance Europe, Active Citizenship Network and Grünenthal. Read what has happened in this exciting period of collaboration.



Implementation of SIP Joint Statement - Pain and Employment as one of the key areas

Chronic pain is the number one reason for workplace absenteeism and disability in the EU. SIP has defined this theme as one of its key priorities and is working intensively on this topic on EU and national level.



Fantastic work of SIP national platforms - Meeting with employer in Portugal

On March 20th, SIP Portugal has met with several companies to address the impact of pain on employment. Measures that aim to promote the maintenance of work and to prevent early retirement due to disability were discussed.



Fighting discrimination at work for people with chronic pain conditions

The Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain (BMP) held a meeting in the European Parliament to discuss the stigma and discrimination attached to long-term neurological disorders and chronic pain conditions and the underestimated support which is needed by informal carers.





Save the date: SIP 2019 Symposium on November 7th in Brussels

In the year of its 10th Anniversary the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform is organising an International Symposium on 7th November 2019 in Brussels. Registration will open in April.



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QUESTIONS? NEED SUPPORT? WISH TO ENDORSE OR TO PUBLISH ON SIP PLATFORM?

In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's contents, please contact Sam Kynman, Executive Director European Pain Federation EFIC sam.kynman@efic.org.

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