Better pain treatment can play a key role in lifting the burden that chronic pain places on long-term unemployment. Effective pain management can help support economic growth and fiscal sustainability in Europe.

SIP CALLS ON EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO

ESTABLISH AN EU PLATFORM for the exchange, comparison and benchmarking of best practices between member states on pain management and its impact on society.

STRENGTHEN PAIN RESEARCH (basic science, clinical, epidemiological) as a priority in EU framework programme and in equivalent research road maps at national and EU level, addressing the societal impact of pain and the burden of chronic pain on the health, social, and employment sectors.

RAISE AWARENESS of the importance of prevention, diagnosis and management of chronic pain amongst all healthcare professionals, notably through further education.

DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 100 million EU citizens have musculoskeletal pain, that causes almost 50% of all absences from work lasting three days or longer in the EU and 60% of permanent work incapacity. The direct and indirect costs of musculoskeletal diseases have been estimated at €240bn each year - up to 2% of GDP across the EU. III 31% of people who are required to take sick leave because of their chronic pain, are absent from work for longer than ten days per year. IV If the productivity gap caused by pain is considerable, chronic pain also leads to expenditure in workers compensation and early disability retirement too. III Decreasing the incidence of diseases and disabilities results in increases in the total number of years active in the labour force and decreases in public payer expenditures. IV

EFFECTIVE PAIN POLICIES CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT THE PRODUCTIVITY AND LONGEVITY OF EUROPE’S LABOUR FORCE AND DELAY EARLY RETIREMENT.

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Effective pain management can help support economic growth and fiscal sustainability in Europe.

With the right treatment, chronic pain patients are more productive and can stay in the workforce longer.

NOTE:

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Erasmus University (Maria Gheorghe & Pieter van Baal) and Ecorys Nederland B.V (Ilaria Mosca). Health-related constraints to raising Retirement Ages in the EU: A probabilistic Markov-Model of age-related disability rates for selected disease causes and related impacts on public payer cash benefit expenditure. Tender CHAFEA/2014/Health/07 . 2016 / commissioned by the European Commission.

The scientific framework of the “Societal Impact of Pain” (SIP) platform is under the responsibility of the European Pain Federation EFIC®. Cooperation partners for SIP 2016 are Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) and Active Citizenship Network (ACN). The pharmaceutical company Grünenthal GmbH is responsible for funding and non-financial support (e.g. logistical support). In the past the scientific aims of the SIP symposia have been endorsed by over 240 international and national pain advocacy groups, scientific organisations and authorities.