

PAIN, REHABILITATION AND THE REINTEGRATION OF WORKERS IN THE WORKFORCE

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.ⁱ

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.ⁱⁱ

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.



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

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.

- i Fit for Work Foundation, Reducing Temporary Work Absence Through Early Intervention: The case of MSDs in the EU, 2013.
- ii Harald Breivik, Beverly Collett, Vittorio Ventafridda, Rob Cohen, Derek Gallacher, Survey of chronic pain in Europe: Prevalence, impact on daily life, and treatment, European Journal of Pain 10 (2006) 287-333.
- iii Saastamoinen P, Laaksonen M, Kääriä SM, Lallukka T, Leino-Arjas P, Rahkonen O, Lahelma E.; Pain and disability retirement: a prospective cohort study.; Pain. 2012 Mar;153(3):526-31. doi: 10.1016/j.pain.2011.11.005.
- iv 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 CHA/FEA/2014/Health/07. 2016 / commissioned by the European Commission.

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