



SIP

Societal Impact of Pain

SIP 2013 Focus Group 2: Chronic Pain in the Working Population

Prof. Giustino Varrassi

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Chronic pain in the Working Population in EU: Keeping our workforce healthy



- **Current economic crisis / “austerity” politics**
- **High need for preventive programs, but also re-integrative projects and initiatives**
- **Health & Safety at Work**

26 February 2013, Lázló Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion:

*“[...] tackling health issues and preventing work-related health problems more effectively - these include occupational and work-related diseases, **work-related musculo-skeletal disorders**, work-related psycho-social risks, and potential risks of new technologies. [...] **Europe needs to continue improving working conditions**, but future work in this area cannot ignore the broader economic, employment and demographic situation”.*

“EU policy on health and safety at work: myths and facts” by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in London (United Kingdom) on 26 February 2013 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-162_en.htm

➤ **Brenda O’Brien, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**

SIP 2013:

The societal impact of chronic pain in Europe

▪ **High prevalence:**

Chronic, non-malignant pain affects 20% of adults – or 80 million Europeans; almost 9% of the adult population suffer from pain daily.

Reid K. J. et al., Epidemiology of chronic non-cancer pain in Europe: narrative review of prevalence, pain treatments and pain impact, *Current Medical Research & Opinion*, Vol. 27, No. 2, 2011, 449-462

➤ **Stefano Coaccioli, Italy**

▪ **High economic burden & societal costs:**

In 2005 it was estimated that chronic pain results in more than 500 million sick days in Europe – costing the EU economy more than €34 billion.

Hill L. et al., Recent advances in the pharmaceutical management of pain, *Expert Rev. Clin. Pharmacol.* 2(5), 2009, 543-557

➤ **Anna Vavrowsky, Austria**



Patients' Involvement for Better Pain Management in Europe

- **Pain Patient Pathways Recommendations**
 - Collaborative project 2012 – 2014 of
 - Active Citizenship Network (ACN)
 - Pain Alliance Europe (PAE)
 - Grünenthal
- **European Assessment of the EU Patient Right of Avoiding Unnecessary Suffering and Pain (Preliminary Results)**
- **<http://www.activecitizenship.net/patients-rights/projects/87-pain-patient-pathway-recommendations.html>**
- **Joop van Griensven, President PAE**
- **Teresa Petrangolini, Past Director Active Citizenship Network**
- **Mariano Votta, Project Manager (ACN) (IT):**



Best-Practice Projects for Re-integrating chronic pain patients into the workforce

- **Harry Kletzko**, German Pain League, Germany
- **Dr Françoise Laroche**, President of CEDR (Cercle d'Etude de la Douleur en Rhumatologie), France
- **Jacqueline Lyttle**, Director of Commissioning, Jackel solutions Ltd., United Kingdom
- **Professor Michiel Reneman**, Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen, the Netherlands
- **Dr Clairy Wiholm**, Swedish Social Insurance Agency, Sweden



