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## 20TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

As 2018 draws to a close, the Social Impact of Pain (SIP) initiative can be proud of its achievements in the past 12 months.

Our greatest achievement at European level was the development and [presentation](#) of the final [Joint Statement](#) by the Social Impact of Pain (SIP) Thematic Network (TN) team, on 12 November, to the European Commission, which welcomed its findings and proposals. This Joint Statement and the accompanying [Framing Paper](#) were the result of the SIP TN team's hard work through active collection and analysis of pivotal information, continuous dialogue with the European Commission and interested stakeholders, as well as incorporating stakeholder feedback received from the two live Commission-organised [webinars](#). The Joint Statement was also presented at the Brain, Mind, and Pain Group in the [European Parliament](#) on 21 November and at the [European Public Health](#) (EPH) Conference on 29 November, in Ljubljana.

The goals of the SIP Joint Statement are (1) to promote pain as health quality indicator, (2) to promote further research on pain, (3) to address chronic pain as a factor in employment, (4) to promote pain education of healthcare professionals, patients and society at large. The Thematic Network programme has been a unique chance in 2018 to create enormous awareness on the objectives and activities of the European SIP Platform and to connect with other European initiatives. The next step in 2019 will be to garner further support for the Joint Statements' proposals and implement them via the SIP European and national Platforms, the Joint Statement's endorsers, and other interested partners and stakeholders.

To date, the Joint Statement has received endorsements from over 50 organisations. Endorsements are open to all until 25 January 2019. We welcome your support and endorsement of the Joint Statement. If your organisation wishes to endorse the SIP Joint Statement, please write to [vittoria.carraro@efic.org](mailto:vittoria.carraro@efic.org). Your endorsement will appear in the Joint Statement [infographic](#) that provides a short visual representation of our recommendations, therefore we would very much appreciate if you could send us the logo of your organisation.

Great achievements were also gained by our [national SIP Platforms](#) in 2018 following the same strategy and structure as the EU SIP platform. We have seen a huge growth in our national SIP network with the establishment of national platforms in Belgium, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. Remarkably, they have already had some noteworthy achievements, such as [SIP France](#) hosting a meeting in the French Parliament in October. Moreover, in December several national SIP meetings took place – notably the [SIP Spain](#) meeting with the Ministry of Health on 11 December, and [SIP Portugal](#) organising a workshop on 11 December.

We are excited about the achievements made at European and national level and hope to build on them further in 2019.

On behalf of the SIP partners, I would like to thank you for the great collaboration and endorsement of the SIP initiative in 2018. I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday and a good start to the new year!

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)<sup>®</sup>



### SIP Joint Statement presented to the European Commission

On 12 November, the EU Health Policy Platform held its third annual meeting in Brussels with 150 participants coming from across Europe where the SIP Joint Statement has been presented.



### First SIP Spain Forum hosted in the Spanish Ministry of Health in Madrid

On December 11th, SIP Spain arranged this important event with more than 70 representatives of different stakeholder groups. Another great example how national SIP platforms are following the strategy of SIP international and addressing the impact that pain to policy makers.



### Launch of a new Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) Survey on Stigma related to Chronic Pain

The 2019 edition of the PAE survey has just been started in 14 languages and will be open until the 1st of March, 2019.





## New EFIC's website

EFIC launched its new website with a modern look and feel with a stronger focus on constant updated about and for our community of health care professional in Europe. Have a look at [www.europeanpainfederation.eu](http://www.europeanpainfederation.eu)



## Examination for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine - Apply for a Bursary

The European Pain Federation EFIC is holding the third sitting of the Examination for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine. The Examination will take place on the 12th and 13th April 2019 in Leuven, Belgium. Registration is now open.



## Last Call for Applications for EGG

The EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL Grant (EGG) supports young scientists in their early career in pain research. Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2018.



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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](mailto:sam.kynman@efic.org).

In case you would like to endorse the SIP Platform or to publish news on the SIP Website, please contact Norbert van Rooij (Grünenthal GmbH, Head of Governmental Affairs & Patient Centricity): [sip-platform@grunenthal.com](mailto:sip-platform@grunenthal.com)

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Gudula Petersen (Website Editor): [sip-platform@grunenthal.com](mailto:sip-platform@grunenthal.com)

## IMPRINT

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