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STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN

Chronic pain costs the EU  
**€240 billion a year**



## 18TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

As you know, SIP has been selected as one of just three topics for the [Thematic Network \(TN\) programme in 2018](#), which is hosted on the European Commission's EU Health Policy Platform.

Since then, the SIP TN team has been actively collecting information about policies and initiatives from its partners and endorsers. We recently prepared a [Framing Paper](#) with the support of many other stakeholder groups, and first presented it during a [1st Live Webinar](#) hosted by the European Commission on 25 June 2018.

This Paper presents the unified position of a wide range of stakeholders on the issue of pain in the EU. These stakeholders include organisations, institutions and industry members from the health, social and employment sectors. It presents existing policies that are and can be relevant to pain and lays them out into four categories: health indicators, research, employment and education.

The Paper also highlights gaps in pain management and offers actionable recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders to address these shared challenges. Our goal is to achieve improved care and pain management across the EU to reduce the societal impact of pain, which touches upon all aspects of life.

This Framing Paper and the associated Joint Statement were developed by the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP), in partnership with stakeholders and members of the EU Health Policy Platform.

The next step is to present a stakeholder-led Joint Statement in a [2nd Live Webinar](#) on 20th September 2018. The goals of the Societal Impact of Pain (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 professional, patients and society at large.

**We invite you to join the [2nd Live Webinar](#) and welcome your feedback and contributions to the [Framing Paper](#) and [Joint Statement](#) either before or during the Webinar!**

The final Framing Paper and Joint Statement will be presented at an event organised by the European Commission in November 2018. The TN programme is a unique chance in 2018 to create enormous awareness on the objectives and activities of the European SIP Platform. It is also an opportunity to connect with other European initiatives.

Finally, we would like to share some great news from the SIP partner, European Pain Federation EFIC. EFIC just published their 2018 [annual report](#) and the move to a [new office](#) in the heart of the EU quarter in Brussels.

Check out our [calendar](#) on the SIP website to identify SIP-relevant congresses in 2018 and let us know if any events are missing.

Wishing you a happy reading!



Prof. Bart Morlion  
President of the European Pain Federation (EFIC)  
Director of the Multidisciplinary Pain Centre of the University of Leuven, Belgium



#### Pain as a Health Quality Indicator

There is currently a data gap in how we measure and monitor the societal impact of pain across the EU. We want to change this!



#### Research on Pain

There is inconsistent funding for pain research on national and EU levels, including a likely reduction in funds available for pain research in the upcoming European Commission's research programmes. We want to change this!



#### Pain as a Factor in Employment

Chronic pain has a major impact on workforce participants and productivity. Currently this is not adequately acknowledged, nor is it addressed by employers or policymakers. We want to change this!





## Pain Education of Healthcare Professionals, Patients and Society

Pain medicine is not taught as a dedicated unit in most European medical schools, and there is a lack of awareness of the societal impact of pain in the broader community. We want to change this!



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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)

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### IMPRINT

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