

THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN

DID YOU KNOW?

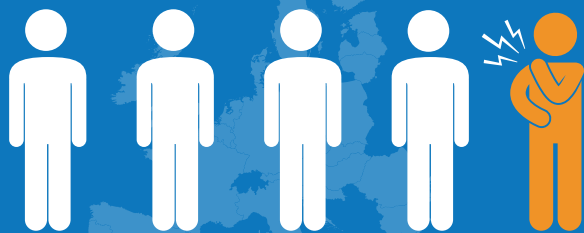
Pain is a burden on individuals and contributes enormous costs not only to healthcare systems, but also to related social, economic and employment costs.

Measuring quality of health care services in pain care is fundamental to patient care.

Chronic pain – for policy purposes – should be acknowledged as a disease in its own right.

Providing adequate pain policy can positively impact the productivity and longevity of Europe's labour force and delay early retirement.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR POLICY-MAKERS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN AND LIFT THE BURDEN FROM PATIENTS, HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, AND THE ECONOMY.



1 in 5 adults in Europe are effected by chronic pain.ⁱ



Chronic pain is one of the most common reasons for which people seek medical attention,^{ii, iii} but patient pain is poorly assessed and reported.^{iv}



Chronic pain has a major impact on workforce participation and productivity.^{v, vi}



While US statistics indicate that chronic pain costs amount to \$560-\$635 billion per year,^{vii} no comprehensive study on the costs of chronic pain in Europe exists to date.

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SIP CALLS ON EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO



ACKNOWLEDGE

that chronic pain is an important factor limiting the quality of life and should be a top priority of the national health care system.



ACTIVATE PATIENTS,

their family, relatives and care-givers through the availability of information and access to chronic pain diagnosis and management.



RAISE AWARENESS

of the medical, financial and social impact that chronic pain and its management has on the patients, their family, care-givers, employers, and the healthcare system.



RAISE AWARENESS

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



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.



ESTABLISH AN EU PLATFORM

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



USE THE EU PLATFORM

to monitor trends in pain management, services, and outcomes and provide guidelines to harmonize effective levels of pain management to improve the quality of life of European.

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- iii Koleva D. Pain in primary care: an Italian survey. *Eur J Public Health* 2005;15:475-79.
- iv Johnson M, Collett B, Castro-Lopes JM; on behalf of the OPENMinds Primary Care group. The challenges of pain management in primary care: a pan-European survey. *J Pain Res* 2013;6:393-401.
- v Phillips C, Main C, Buck R, Aylward M, Whyne-Jones G, Farr A., Prioritising pain in policy making: The need for a whole systems perspective, *Health Policy* 88, 2008, 166-175.
- vi Langley P, Müller-Schwefe G, Nicolaou A, Liedgens H, Pergolizzi J, Varrassi. The impact of pain on labour force participation, absenteeism and presenteeism in the European Union.; *G.J Med Econ.* 2010;13(4):662-72. doi: 10.3111/13696998.2010.529379. Epub 2010 Nov 1.
- vii Darrell J. Gaskin, Patrick Richard, The economic costs of pain in the United States, *Journal of Pain*, Volume 13, Issue 8, 715-724.

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.