



Award Ceremony
II° Edition of the “EU Civic Prize on Chronic Pain - Collection of good practices”

6th November 2019 - Concert Noble, Brussels

Final remarks
Mariano Votta, Director of Active Citizenship Network

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with particular joy that we find ourselves together again to reward good practices of fighting against chronic pain.

We are at the Second Edition of the Civic Prize promoted by Active Citizenship Network and managing to carry out this work by expanding the number of experiences collected is a source of pride. To those who have complimented us for having identified and cataloged 40 good practices around Europe, we answer that there will be at least another 4,000 or 400,000 that we have missed, and in the end we hope so.

In our own, we will strive to recover and promote as many as possible, being aware of the fact that from year to year the constituency of the actors sensitive to the fight against pain is widening and becoming stronger and stronger: we are very happy of this result, given the role we plan to play in this area.

Focusing on the people involved and multi-stakeholder collaboration, we try to facilitate partnerships, reducing the distance between the local dimension and the European dimension for a more effective coordination of the action in the field of chronic pain. We aim to increase the awareness of the institutional interlocutors also considering the impact that this phenomenon has on the daily life of so many European citizens, telling stories, giving voice and protecting the weakest.

We like to think that good practices are also a small, but significant indicator of the health status of

our healthcare systems, which have long been under pressure between the need for economic sustainability and high expectations of the population. Health protection as a common good should be the common denominator that unites the many stakeholders involved in the health sector, same as the fight against every form of inequality in access to therapies and the guarantee of the quality standards. The area of pain is no exception: reducing inequalities to allow a better quality of life for people suffering from chronic pain is the challenge we face in the coming years.

From the good practices collected it emerges clearly that, as often happens, it is the team and not the individual that wins: multidisciplinary medical teams, collaboration between the public and private sectors, dialogue between the world of research and patient associations, involvement of civil society, etc. they are always present in most of these experiences.

Moreover, the fact that this year apps won all the prizes, say a lot about the growing importance of digital health.

What is still lacking is a constructive media attention, and this collection of good practices provides a valuable assist, as it is trying to give emphasis and visibility to what is not visible. With regard to better dissemination, we are happy to announce that the European Commission accepted our request to add the PAIN topic in its European Best Practice Portal.

Well, dinner is ready and I don't want to steal more of your time. By my side, I sincerely thank the jurors starting from the president of the jury, Beverly Collett - to whom I would make a nice applause -, I thank my colleagues with particular reference to Daniela Quaggia and Manuela Amadori who have worked so much for this activity, I thank Pfizer and Grunenthal for believing in this initiative since 2014-2015 and with which we have every intention to continue working. I thank the SIP-Platform for hosting, for the second time, the award ceremony in the context of the Annual Symposium. In Italy, we usually say there are no two without three... so we hope to meet again for the third edition.

Have a nice dinner.