

## **Activity plan for 2017**

### **Pain Alliance Europe**

#### **General**

Pain Alliance Europe has to allow for uncertainties when making plans for 2017. However taking a positive attitude, the following will be the goals for 2017. Adjustments can be made during the year following the situation.

The activity plans can be divided into two sections: core activities and projects.

#### **Core activities**

The core activities of Pain Alliance Europe are those that keep PAE working in accordance with its legal responsibilities. These are:

- Organising one or two general assemblies
- Organising board meetings
- Keeping records of minutes and in- and outgoing post and doing all other necessary secretarial activities.
- Keeping records of all financial transactions and presenting them, audited by an accountant, to the general assembly.
- Organising and maintaining PAE's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Informing members and others by means of a newsletter and news flashes.
- Maintaining and strengthening relations with sponsors of PAE and also looking for more of them.
- Building on relations with our present partners, both healthcare professionals and patient associations and try to extend them.
- Maintaining relations with the political arena such as MEPs, policy makers of DG SANCO, DG Research and so on.
- Maintaining and building on relations with European institutions like EMA.
- Strengthening our relations with the industry in order to participate in new developments.

- Strengthening our relations with the scientific world in order to get more involved in fundamental and specific research projects.
- Disseminating information about PAE's goals and objectives at EU level, by organising information stands at such events as EFIC and Neurology Congress.
- Printing and disseminating suitable leaflets/booklets for the public re chronic pain.

This list doesn't look much, but in reality it takes many hours of extensive work to do all this in a way is effective. Both board members and the secretariat spend a lot of time on these basic activities.

### **Running Projects**

#### **Brain, Mind and Pain Interest group**

This project started after the elections in 2014 was launched in February 2015. It is assumed that this project will at least run till the elections of 2019. The BMP interest group aims to have three European Parliament meetings each year tackling the common aspects of Brain Mind and Pain disorders. Also for 2017 are three meeting planned.

#### **Target Project with MAC and Janssen**

It is understood that this project will be approved in the beginning of 2016. It is a 4 year scientific project which will ensure more activities for PAE. The focus for PAE as partner in the project will be communicating the results of the project as well as organising the event reporting the final results sometime in 2020. For this, PAE will develop materials for the website and elsewhere as well as participating in partner meetings to discuss progress of the project.

#### **Pain Patient Additional Burden project**

When this project has been accepted by PAE's partners, it will be an eighteen month project which to finish end 2017. The projects aims to identify the additional costs a chronic pain patient has which are not reimbursed in any way. Under additional costs are included any costs which someone with chronic pain has which a healthy person doesn't have. They could be costs related to his condition, costs for hiring others to do things which normally he would do himself or costs due to unemployment or reduced work capacity. We are aiming to have this done at a European level and thus will identify differences between countries. The project ending will be a European Parliament event where the data will be presented.

### Maltese Presidency

As a follow-up to our activities started in 2015 and continued in 2016, we plan to finalise our activities aimed to get more attention for pain during the Maltese presidency. This activity, which started as a SIP activity, will ensure more attention for pain, pain therapy and raising awareness of chronic pain than before. The intention is to have a big event during the Maltese presidency in Malta. The Maltese member of PAE will be involved in all the plans we can develop to get the most attention from politicians and the (international) press.

### Develop new projects

As the scheduled project on the additional costs (PPBA) will end in 2017, we need to develop continuity and ensure the results of the research are clearly presented so they will be used at both European and national level. In order to do that, a project proposal will be developed to organise and coordinate this so the publicity generated by the research can be of the best use to PAE. As well, PAE will encourage the development of new strategies to ensure changes are made in European policies.

### Final

As you see, we have a very tough program ahead of us and we can only achieve it if we as members of PAE work together and give all our support to PAE in any way we can, so that at the end of the day we really can say:

Pain Alliance Europe the voice of people with chronic pain

**The board of PAE**