



Activity plans 2018

General

In making plans for 2018, Pain Alliance Europe has to take into account that these are subject to our receiving the required funding. However, starting from a positive attitude we set out below the goals for 2018. Adjustments can be made during the year according to the funding achieved, but our plans will always aim to improve the quality of life of people living with chronic pain in Europe and being “the voice of people with chronic pain”.

The activity plans can be divided into two sections: the core activities and project activities. The latter could run for one or more years.

Core activities

The core activities of Pain Alliance Europe are those activities which are necessary to keep the alliance working and to follow their 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 present them, audited by an accountant to the general assembly.
- Organising and maintaining the website, the facebook account and the twitter account of PAE.
- Informing members and relations by means of a newsletter and news flashes.
- Maintaining and strengthening relations with Sponsors of PAE and in addition trying to find more of them.
- Building on relations with our present partners both healthcare professionals as patient associations and try to extent them.

- Maintaining relationships within the political arena with MEPs, policy makers of DG SANCO, DG Research, DG Employment, DG Finance and so on; with the European council and supporting the members with the Semester.
- Maintaining and building on relations with European institutions such as the 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.

Although written like this it doesn't look much, in reality it takes many hours of extensive work to do all this in such a way that it has influence. Board members and the secretariat spend a lot of time on these basic activities. They are proud to do this for you, our members.

Running Projects

Brain, Mind and Pain Interest group (BMP)

This project started after the elections in 2014, and was launched at a meeting in February 2015. It is assumed that this project will run at least until the elections of 2019. This interest group aims to hold three European Parliament meetings each year tackling the common aspects of Brain Mind and Pain disorders. Also planned for 2018, are several meetings scheduled within the scope of the Book of Evidence presented at the launch meeting. This can be seen on the website www.brainmindpain.eu

Societal Impact of Pain (SIP)

After becoming a cooperative partner of SIP in 2016, our involvement in SIP has increased. In 2018 we will follow up on our earlier activities and the recommendations following these. After the 2017 SIP, we will focus during 2018 more on getting the recommendations included in policy development. For that we aim more towards the European institutions although no final choice has been made. This activity, which requires a lot of patience and determination, will also ask for the commitment of PAE's members to reach out to their national semester.

Grant for innovative patient-centred activity

Started in 2017, this biennial grant is a PAE-lead project. PAE is supported in this project by the BMP interest group, European Network of Neurological Associations (EFNA). the professionals' counterparts of PAE and EFNA, European Pain Federation and the European Academy of Neurology. This project is made possible with the financial and other support of Grünenthal.

This project is mainly aimed in stimulating projects to improve the quality of life.

Survey

Started end 2015, and further developed during 2016, the first survey was done in 2017. We are planning to make this an annual activity, each survey to be on specific topics and to use these patient-reported outcomes as tools to influence the European policy makers and politicians.

New projects

PAE is involved in developing new projects with several consortiums within the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) and Horizon 2020 calls. If granted, these projects will have their influence on the activities of 2018. However, the chances of having projects granted are rather slim: less than 5%

Under this heading, we can add that the EU is discussing how to continue the research project after Horizon 2020. Within our contacts we will try to find out where the focus will be and try to anticipate on that.

Conclusion

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

Pain Alliance Europe: the voice of people with chronic pain.

PAE Board