

# **Cooperation Agreement**



# This Cooperation Agreement expresses the willingness of the two parties:

- The European Pain Federation EFIC®, a pan-European organisation of multidisciplinary professional societies working in the field of pain research and medicine, consisting of the 37 chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP®), which are the official National Pain Societies in each country, located in Rue de Londres/ Londenstraat 18 Brussels. Belgium, and
- The **European Region of the WCPT** is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that represents the physiotherapy profession at European Level. The Organisation has a membership of 38 National Physiotherapy Associations.

(Henceforth the aforementioned organisations will be called 'The Partners')

The parties agree on a long-term cooperation agreement for mutual collaboration and support in EU public affairs, congresses, educational and practice activities.

The aim of European Pain Federation EFIC® is to create a forum to enhance education, collaboration and exchange of best practices amongst experts and professionals across Europe, from across a range of relevant medical specialities (anaesthesiology, neurology, headache, palliative care etc.) and allied health professionals (psychology, physiotherapy, nursing etc.), and EU institutions, with the ultimate goal of improving the prevention, diagnosis, care and management of c pain.

The aim of the European Region of the WCPT (European Region Physiotherapy) is to lead, promote and represent the Physiotherapy profession in the European Region by driving excellence in education, practice and research, and advocating and influencing health policy.

Both organisations have identified common policy objectives and have discussed opportunities on public affairs and communication activities, aimed at fostering and shaping relevant policies on pain and informing about the role of physiotherapists in pain management at EU level.

## The Partners agree as follows:

### 1. Purpose of the collaboration

European Pain Federation  $\mathsf{EFIC}^*$  and European Region Physiotherapy commit to a long-term collaboration aimed to

- sustain and increase awareness of the impact and burden of pain on individuals and on societies, health and economic systems in the EU;
- ii. undertake common advocacy activities to foster and shape policies at EU level which contribute to the improvement of pain prevention, diagnosis, care and management across Europe and to;
- iii. foster the exchange of information and sharing of best-practices across Europe.

### 2. Areas of Cooperation

- a. Congress collaboration consisting of:
  - i. Invited symposia or shared sessions according to the programmes;
  - ii. Promotional actions at respective congresses in accordance with the relevant logistics; and
  - iii. Registration fee granted for a delegate from each organisation.
- b. Medical Education cooperation
  - i. Informing of educational activities and initiatives of mutual interest to their network;
  - ii. Advocating for physiotherapy pain management competencies to be properly addressed within the entry level physiotherapy education programmes;

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- iii. Possible cooperation and dissemination of E-/Learning material in the field of pain management.
- c. Cooperate in and share respective advocacy campaigns of mutual interest with policy makers and budget decision makers
- d. Ensuring good clinical practice by initiating and developing recommendations and/or guidelines in the field of pain
- e. Exchange of Information

#### The Partners commit to:

- i. Keep each other regularly informed and maintain an open dialogue on priority policy needs and gaps, as well as on-going and future advocacy activities, in order to find and leverage synergies and explore the opportunities for joint, coordinated advocacy action on pain at EU level or others affecting both organisations;
- ii. Consult each other and refer to each other in areas of their respective and specific expertise; the Partners may refer to each other, but not speak on behalf of the other organisation. Where a joint statement is deemed most appropriate, the wording must be agreed upon by the President/Chairman of each organisation prior to circulation;
- iii. Contribute with their respective expertise and networks to the formulation of aligned policy recommendations, messages, backing evidence and arguments and to support communication and advocacy in relevant forums, policy debates and face-to-face meetings;
- Iv. Support and optimise the communication of relevant activities and materials via their respective websites and their networks of member associations, experts and policy makers.

### 3. Compliance, Ethics and Transparency

- 3.1 This collaboration agreement and subsequent collaboration activities will fully comply with European Pain Federation EFIC® and European Region Physiotherapy's respective code of conducts, the EU Transparency Registry, as well as any other applicable laws, regulations or internal code of conducts.
- 3.2 In collaborating and providing support to each other, the Partners will respect their independence in terms of political judgement, policies and activities. Through a mutual and open understanding of each other's objectives and working practices in a transparent manner, the Partners will ensure that this relationship takes place in an ethical and honest manner. Nothing in this agreement shall prevent the Partners from working with other third organisations or companies. In this case, the Partners commit to keep each other informed in advance of future collaboration with other third parties where relevant and especially where they affect the existing party.
- 3.3 The Partners commit to ensure full public transparency about this partnership agreement and the subsequent collaboration activities. The Partners shall communicate proactively about the signature of this Partnership in general and about specific joint advocacy activities, on their respective websites and through their regular communication channels and contacts with other stakeholders.
- 3.4 The Partners agree that any advocacy and communication materials and projects derived from this collaboration will include both logos for transparency purposes. If applicable, the logo and content of third organisations or companies involved will also be disclosed in accordance with 3.2.
- 3.5 Activities undertaken under the joint European Pain Federation EFIC® and European Region Physiotherapy collaboration will not be used in the context of business or sales activities or to promote any specific products.

# 4. Financial terms

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None of the activities that will take place in the frame of this collaboration will lead to any for-profit money transfer. When taking place, money transfers will be related to travel and hospitality expenses deriving from face-to-face meetings.

## 5. Duration

This Memorandum will commence on the date of the last signature and will continue until otherwise notified by written letter of any of the Partners.

European Pain Federation EFIC®

Bart Morlion, President

Place: Brussels - Pate: 19-1-9019

**European Region of the WCPT** 

Esther-Mary D'Arcy, Chairman

Place: — Date