

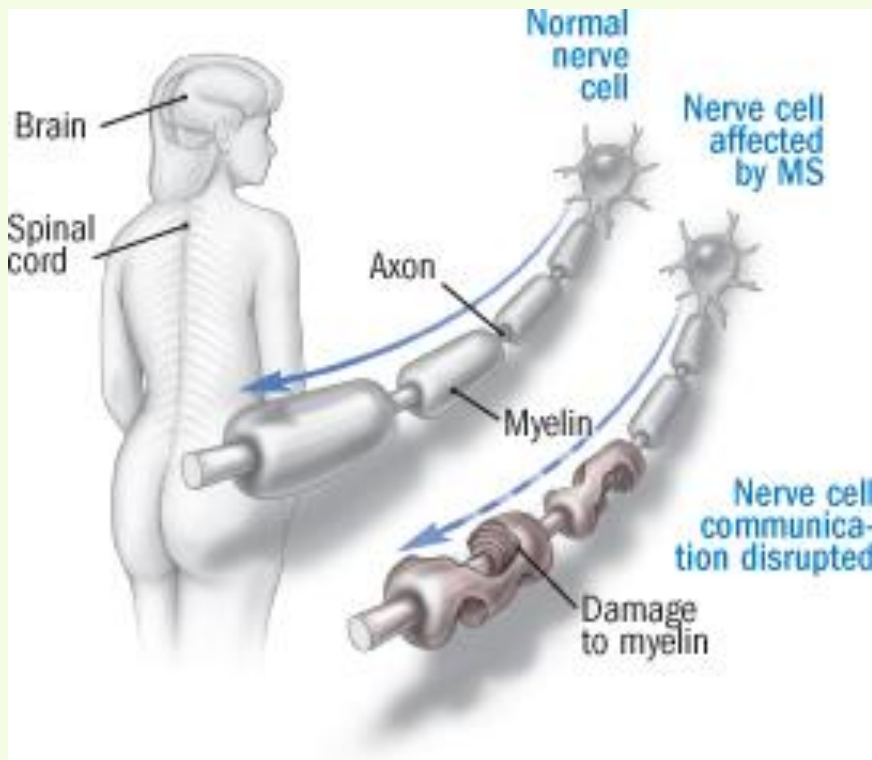
# European MS Platform

## **European Employment Pact**

*Breaking down the barriers:  
Access to employment and the economics of brain health*

Emma Rogan, Project Coordinator EMSP

# What is Multiple Sclerosis?



- Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the main cause of non-traumatic disability in young adults.
- It is a neurological condition commonly diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40. There is no cure, it is unpredictable and it lasts a lifetime.
- MS affects the Central Nervous System, that is the eyes, the brain, the spinal cord & other nerve connections.

# EMSP's vision and mission

## A WORLD WITHOUT MS

### ADVOCACY

- ✓ Ensure the voice and influence of people with MS is recognised
- ✓ Campaign for equitable access to high quality treatment, services and employment across Europe

### KNOWLEDGE and EXPERTISE

- ✓ Share and promote evidence-based best practice
- ✓ Foster effective cooperation between people affected by MS, health professionals, policy decision-makers and researchers

### RESEARCH

- ✓ Encourage and support high quality MS research and international MS research collaboration
- ✓ Support the collection, pooling and interrogation of essential MS data across Europe

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF MORE THAN 700,000 PEOPLE WITH MS ACROSS EUROPE

European MS data collection for research and better outcomes:  
**EUREMS**

Comparative survey of the national situation in 38 European countries:  
**MS Barometer**

Online education supporting the crucial role of European MS nurses:  
**MS Nurse PRO**

European Code of Good Practice in MS:  
**Defeating MS Together**

Multi-media campaign to raise awareness of the impact of MS:  
**Under Pressure**

Improving access to employment for young people with MS:  
**Believe and Achieve**

Develop best practice in the employment of people with MS:  
**Paving the Path to Participation**

# How does MS affect individuals?

MS effects people's lives irreversibly and often compels them to re-assess and re-adjust key life decisions.

Diagnosis and the symptoms of MS in early adulthood can have significant psychological implications. Education, career and life trajectory can all be negatively effected.

Work life:

Career trajectory affected, opportunities lost, drop-out of the workforce

Social and personal life: aspirations, mental health & family life seriously affected

Future: unable to access work, there is lack of financial independence and life experiences are negatively impacted

# Current situation

## MS Facts

- 700,000 people in Europe have MS
- 70% diagnosed during prime working years
- 9 million people with neuro-degenerative diseases
- € 800 billion = cost of brain conditions in Europe

**€ 1,5 million per minute\***

are being spent on brain conditions in Europe



\* European Brain Council, *Cost of Brain Diseases in Europe*, 2010

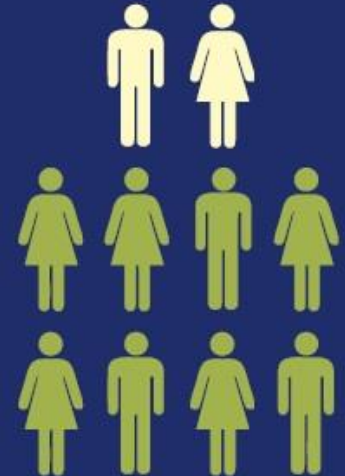
65% of the 1300 respondents to our young people with MS survey said they are currently employed or doing voluntary work ...

... but 80% usually stop working within 15 years of the onset of the disease



EUROPEAN  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
PLATFORM

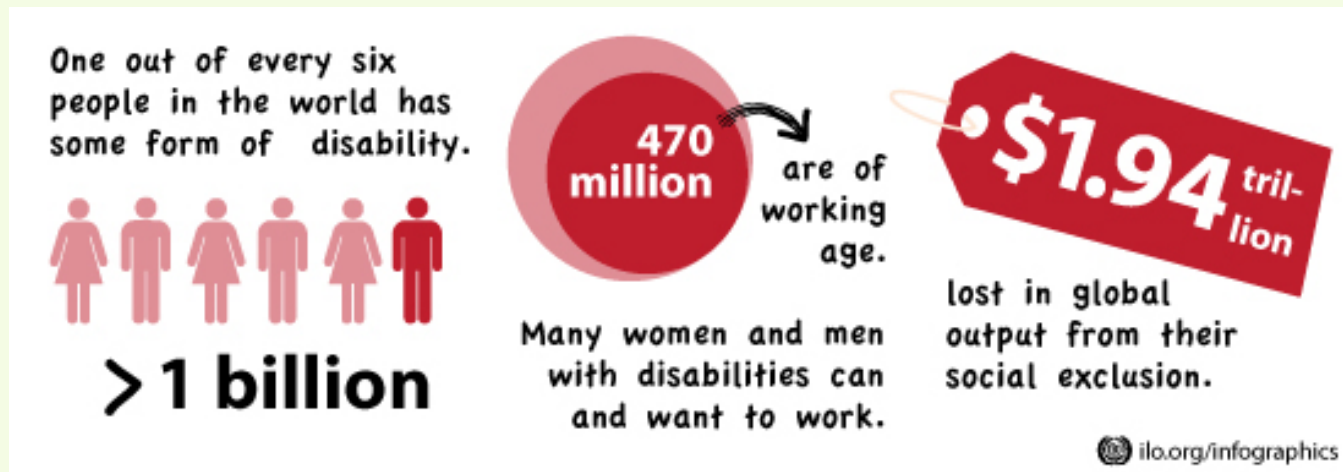
Activity in the workplace for young people with MS



8 out of 10 stop working\*

\* Work Foundation, *Ready to Work?*, 2011

# The Numbers



- People with disabilities represent at least 16% of the EU population. Only 40% are employed
- On average more than 75% of people with MS report it has impacted their work/career
- Up to 80% of people with MS stop working within 15 years of diagnosis, a daunting statistic for people diagnosed in their early 20s



# Paving the Path to Participation

This project aims to promote policy change that will support maximum participation of people with MS in the labour market in Europe.

## Pact

PPP relies on a multi-stakeholder network in its efforts to promote a **European Employment Pact**. People with MS, employers, health-care providers and policy-makers are all taking part.

## Action

- **Implement Pact** in employment policy and best practice.
- **Support businesses** to create solutions for people to stay in or return to work.
- **Persuade policy-makers** and national authorities to adapt policies for flexible working.

**Breaking down the barriers**  
**Access to employment and the  
economics of brain health**

An event  
hosted by  
**Rosa Estaras**

To register, please contact Andreea Antonovici,  
[andreea.antonovici@emsp.org](mailto:andreea.antonovici@emsp.org)

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 | 09:00 - 11:00

European Parliament, Brussels

The event is organised in partnership with the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform

# The European Employment Pact





# Vocational Rehabilitation

## *Disability Management*

*The process in the workplace designed to facilitate the employment of persons with a disability through a coordinated effort and taking into account individual needs, work environment, enterprise needs and legal responsibilities.*





The Greatest Memes in the World - [FunnyMemes.com](http://FunnyMemes.com)

“Access to decent work through changes in policy, workplace and social education transforms lives. People can escape the vicious circle of social exclusion, marginalisation and poverty.” **ILO, 2014**

# Practical Steps

## *Using the Employment Pact*

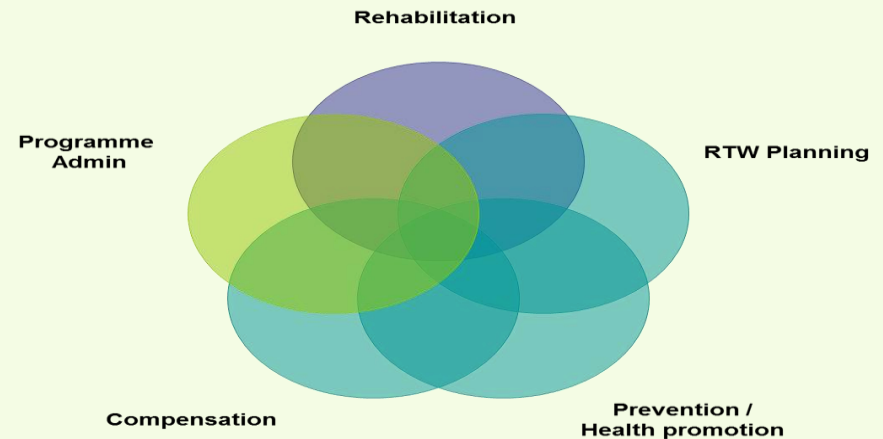
- ✓ Employment Policies
- ✓ Recruitment
- ✓ Equal opportunities and proactive employment
- ✓ Training and awareness in the workforce
- ✓ The Working Environment
- ✓ Due process
- ✓ Monitoring



# What do we want to achieve?

## *The role of the Employment Pact in the Workplace*

- Use the Employment Pact to build a workplace programme
- Change attitudes with education
- Rally all of the community- we are all affected
- Prepare for the future
- Inspire people with MS & other chronic illness
- Show the societal benefits of holding onto talent **young people**



**INSPIRATION**  
**exists**



**but it has to**  
**find you working**

*~ Pablo Picasso*



# *Thank you*

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# EMSP

