



Europeans with multiple sclerosis Under Pressure: 600 multimedia testimonies

- *EMSP launches multimedia website on World MS Day*

BRUSSELS, Belgium (May 29, 2013) – The European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) together with its member societies launches today www.underpressureproject.eu, a multimedia website revealing sharp discrepancies in the treatment, employment and empowerment of people with multiple sclerosis (MS) across Europe. With around 600 evocative pictures and a selection of powerful video testimonies, the *Under Pressure* website illustrates the challenges faced by people with MS in Europe, as well as the negative impact of the economic crisis on those with long term conditions.

World MS Day and the launch of the *Under Pressure* website provide a stark reminder that multiple sclerosis remains incurable and continues to directly and indirectly affect the lives of more than 1,5 million people in Europe. Throughout the continent, at least half of all those with MS are out of work. Treatment can slow down the course of the disease significantly, but can cost between 30,000 and 50,000 euros a year.

By highlighting individual stories, the *Under Pressure* website shows that the opportunities for people affected by MS are inextricably linked with the country they live in. An example of bitter differences: whilst ineffective social policies confine 430 out of the 500 MS patients registered in the Belarusian capital Minsk to isolation in their apartments, the 430 people diagnosed with MS in Iceland benefit from the active care of 18 neurologists, a record ratio in Europe.

What gives the *Under Pressure* website its unique blend of art and advocacy is precisely the fact that it successfully merges relevant data and comparisons captured in EMSP's [MS Barometer](#) with pictures which have already started to be disseminated amongst stakeholders through [Under Pressure Exhibitions](#). *Under Pressure* pictures can also be downloaded directly from the website for professional use in the fight to obtain better research, improved care and fairer access to employment.

Reinforcing the ongoing need for urgent action to improve the situation for people with MS in Europe, EMSP President John Golding writes: *"We have come a long way in fighting MS over the past decade so now we have to make sure that the positive changes that have occurred will not be lost, while also striving to ensure that the level of quality of life for people with multiple sclerosis rapidly improves. Now is the time to act to limit the impact of MS on the people affected, as well as on society at large"*.

When advocating the fight against multiple sclerosis it is also important to state that the economic crisis has started to take its toll in this field as well, with MS societies from countries like Greece and Spain reporting that the progress achieved is gradually fading away. EMSP would like to take this

opportunity to send out the message that people with MS need constant and enhanced support. The time to act is – indeed - now!

About EMSP

EMSP is the umbrella organization of MS societies from 34 European countries, all striving to represent the interests of the 600,000 people living with MS in Europe.

All the useful information about EMSP is available [on our website](#).

Contact:

Claudiu Berbece, Press Officer

Email: claudiu.berbece@emsp.org

Mobile: +32 486 615 127

European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)

Rue Auguste Lambiotte, 144/8

B-1930 Belgium

Tel: +32 2 305 80 12

www.emsp.org