



Latvian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union



## **Fit for Work Conference “Healthcare Solutions to Improve Workability” DRAFT AGENDA**

One of our current priorities is the potential adoption of Council Conclusions on “Chronic Diseases” during the Latvian Presidency. In particular, we are hoping the Council will encourage Member States to focus on implementing health care and workplace interventions, which support early care and job retention for people with chronic diseases like Musculoskeletal Disorders - MSDs.

Fit for Work Europe has now been working for over seven years to demonstrate that MSDs are manageable conditions. An innovative early intervention scheme that we implemented in Spain has shown that both sickness absence and permanent job loss related to MSDs can be reduced by 39%, respectively 50%, recouping around €10 for each €1 invested in the programme. Similar programmes are already being tested in Portugal, Lithuania, the UK and Latvia (through the National Plan against MSDs).

**The Latvian Presidency has now the opportunity to lead the action against chronic diseases in the EU and facilitate a unifying framework for reducing the burden of MSDs across all Member States.**

In this context we propose the organisation of conference under the Latvian Presidency official agenda in the form of a roundtable discussion.

### **Healthcare Solutions to Improve Workability**

Debate based on chronic diseases cases (Musculoskeletal Disorders, IBDs, Mental Health).

Co-Chaired by the Minister of Health, Riga Stradins University and Fit For Work.

13:00 – 17:00, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Riga, Conference center “Citadele”

Welcome address and opening speech by Health Minister - 15 min

- Workability Challenges in the EU – Prof Bevan, Founding-President, FfW – 15 min
- Burden of MSD in Latvia – Daiga Behmane, FfW Latvia – 10 min
- Solutions to Improve Workability & Sustain Healthcare Systems
  - WHO report - 15 min
  - OECD framework – 15 min
  - Healthy life years as a Health System indicator – DG SANCO or WHO - 15 min

COFFEE BREAK – 35 min (14:25 – 15:00)

**Evidence based solutions to improve workability of people with MSDs and other chronic conditions across Europe** – Chaired by Prof Stephen Bevan

- **Spanish** Early Intervention case study – Cristina Lajas Petisco, PhD, Rheumatologist in Hospital Clinico San Carlos, Madrid 15 min
- **Lithuanian** Early Intervention Concept development – Prof Barauskaite – 15 min
- **German** Importance of Early Intervention from a Statutory Health Insurance Perspective – Franz Knieps, BKK Federal Association - 15 min
- **Polish** workability improvement, connecting with Healthy Ageing agenda – Prof Samolinski, Healthy Ageing Coalition – 15 min
- **Austrian** example – Prof Klaus Machold – 15 min
- **Latvian** Early Intervention Concept development - Prof Andersone – 15 min
- Occupational health in **Latvia** – Ivars Vanadzins, Riga Stradins University – 15 min
- Time for questions – 15 min



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### About Fit for Work Europe

Fit for Work Europe is a multi-stakeholder Coalition, driving policy and practice change across the work and health agendas. We aim to deliver more investment in sustainable healthcare by promoting and implementing early intervention practices. Research shows this approach is the most effective way of ensuring people with MSDs (musculoskeletal disorders) can enter and remain in work across the EU and globally. Fit for Work Europe is led by The Work Foundation, supported by AbbVie. For more information please visit [www.fitforworkeurope.eu](http://www.fitforworkeurope.eu)

### Contact

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