

# Multiple Sclerosis



Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex, neurological condition and no two people are affected in the same way. Symptoms range from fatigue and depression to severe mobility problems and blindness in extreme cases. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, and for half of them unemployment follows, on average, three years after.

There is currently no cure for multiple sclerosis, but the condition can be managed through specialised help, starting with early diagnosis and continuing with person-centered therapies and appropriate medication. However, there is tremendous variation in access to optimal treatment and care across Europe.

## European Multiple Sclerosis Platform

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*25 years, and more to come, as the voice of people with MS in Europe*

# Raising the voice of people with MS in Europe



The photographs in this leaflet are from the multi-media **Under Pressure** project.

Five renowned photographers interviewed, photographed and filmed people with multiple sclerosis across Europe. They were inspired with the strength and resilience of so many of the people they met and whose invaluable contributions to the project we gratefully acknowledge.

[www.underpressureproject.eu](http://www.underpressureproject.eu)



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EUROPEAN  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
PLATFORM

## EMSP

The European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) represents more than 700,000 people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) in Europe. Their needs are the main focus of our advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns. Our flagship projects aim to improve quality of life as well as access to treatment, care and employment. En route to its ultimate vision of a world without multiple sclerosis, EMSP works to ensure that people with MS have a real voice in determining their own priorities.

EMSP was founded in 1989 and over the years we have gained the support of 39 national MS member societies from 34 European countries.

## Flagship projects

- **European MS Barometer** – a collection of comparative MS data provided by national MS societies;
- **Under Pressure** – a multimedia project involving renowned photographers, illustrating the healthcare inequalities captured in the MS Barometer;
- **EUReMS** – a data-registration initiative aimed at building a cross-border MS-information infrastructure which combines knowledge from specialists, researchers and patients;
- **MS Nurse Pro** – an accredited online education programme, promoting the role of MS nurses and the provision of care across Europe;
- **Believe and Achieve** – an awareness-raising campaign to improve access to employment and training for young people with MS in Europe;
- **Paving the Path to Participation** – a project to develop best practice in the employment of people with MS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

## Call to action

MS continues to pose important challenges for individuals and society. The current total cost of dealing with multiple sclerosis in Europe has been estimated at 15 billion euros per year. This problem will not simply go away with time.

Therefore it is up to organisations such as EMSP, together with people affected by MS, policy-makers, specialists and researchers, to work with urgency towards a world without MS. We are at a tipping point and we cannot afford to move backwards now.

### Support EMSP

Those who believe in our mission can support us by making a donation or by promoting our messages and projects. Information on ways to support our work is available on the 'Get Involved' section of the Under Pressure website:

[www.underpressureproject.eu](http://www.underpressureproject.eu)



“ 25 years for EMSP is fantastic and I've seen such a huge difference since EMSP developed a youth programme and two separate projects to support young people with MS.”

[Shana Pezaro, Young People with MS Representative]

“ There continue to be unacceptable disparities in access to treatment and care throughout Europe.”

[Maggie Alexander, EMSP Chief Executive]

“ People with MS need to be listened to and we need to continue that, whether we are scientists, staff members or volunteers. From that grows the work of national societies and of EMSP.”

[Anne Winslow, EMSP President]