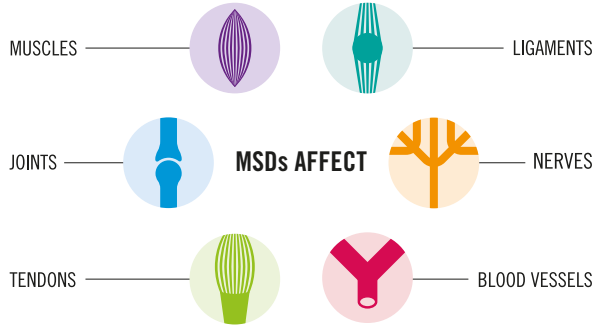


# MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

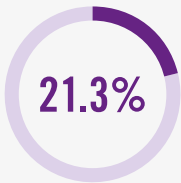


## WHAT ARE MSDs?

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) include over 200 conditions causing pain and functional impairment to people living with them. They include widely known conditions such as arthritis and back pain, injuries caused by trauma, such as fractures, and other conditions that are the result of genetic or developmental abnormalities, as well as bone and soft tissue cancer.



## KEY FACTS ABOUT MSDs



OF DISABILITIES WORLDWIDE ARE DUE TO MSDs



**4TH GLOBALLY IN IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF POPULATIONS** <sup>1</sup>



**2ND GREATEST CAUSE OF DISABILITY WORLDWIDE** <sup>2</sup>



**BIGGEST SINGLE CAUSE OF DISABILITY IS BACK PAIN**



ACROSS THE EU **44M WORKERS** HAVE MSDs WHICH ARE CAUSED BY THEIR WORK



COST TO THE EU EACH YEAR IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY AND SICKNESS ABSENCE (**2% OF GDP**)



THESE CONDITIONS ACCOUNT FOR **HALF OF ALL ABSENCES** FROM WORK ...



... AND FOR **60%** OF PERMANENT WORK INCAPACITY <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vos T, et al. Lancet 2012; 380:2163 – 2196

<sup>2</sup> As measured by years lived with disability (YLDs)

<sup>3</sup> Zheltoukhova, et al. The Work Foundation 2012

## THE MADRID CLINIC

In Madrid a successful early intervention clinic for people with MSDs revealed that of the 13,000 patients assessed and offered early treatment after 5 days of sickness absence, temporary work absence fell by **39%** and permanent work disability fell by **50%**.<sup>4</sup>

If the findings from this study were rolled out across Spain, the equivalent of over **46,000** Spanish workers would be available for work each day rather than taking sick leave.

# 50%

REDUCTION IN PERMANENT WORK ABSENCE IN STUDY

# 39%

REDUCTION IN TEMPORARY WORK ABSENCE IN STUDY

# 26M

WORKING DAYS LOST TO MSDs EACH YEAR IN SPAIN

# 46,000

ADDITIONAL SPANISH WORKERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR WORK EACH DAY IN SPAIN

<sup>4</sup> Abasolo, L et al, A Health System Program To Reduce Work Disability Related to Musculoskeletal Disorders, Annals of Internal Medicine, 143:404 – 414, 2005

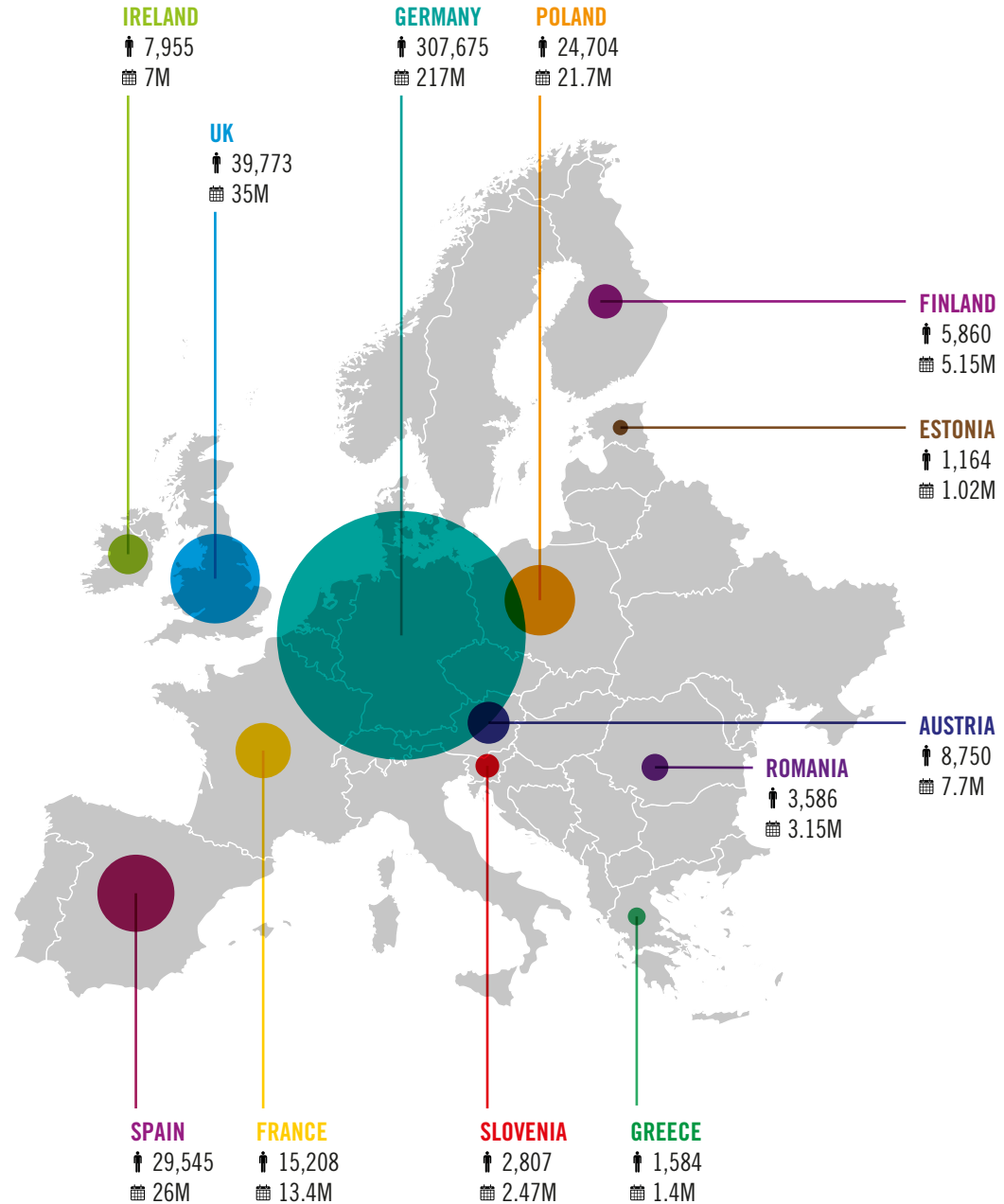
## IMPACT ON THE EU

The Fit for Work Coalition has developed estimates of the effect of repeating the results of the Madrid clinic across 12 EU Member States where comparable data exists. The following map from 12 Member States represent only 70% of the EU workforce.

Our estimates show that, if temporary work disability was reduced by **25%** the equivalent number of additional EU workers available for work each day would be **640,000**.<sup>5</sup>

The equivalent number of additional workers available to work each day if the Madrid results were replicated uniformly across the EU (ie a 39% reduction in temporary work disability) would be **1 million**.

<sup>5</sup> These data assumes a lower success in reducing temporary work disability than the Madrid clinic – 25% rather than 39% – as the way patients are referred to early intervention services, such as the Madrid clinic, will vary considerably between countries. The data is therefore based in a more cautious scenario. Nonetheless, the number of lost working days avoided even in this scenario are still substantial, and show the potential impact that wider access to early intervention may have across the EU.



# 640K

ADDITIONAL WORKERS AVAILABLE TO WORK EACH DAY ACROSS THE EU<sup>5</sup>

NO. OF ADDITIONAL WORKERS AVAILABLE EACH DAY<sup>5</sup>  
 DAYS LOST TO MSDs EACH YEAR

Fit for Work Europe is led by The Work Foundation  
and supported by AbbVie and GE Healthcare



abbvie