

# ESCIF CONGRESS 2016

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# MOBILITY AIDS AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES

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Part of the ESCIF project: Successful Integration of People Living with Spinal Cord Injury

## Group Members

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# ASSISTIVE DEVICE

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## Definition According the IPSCI Study:

*“Any piece of equipment, or product, whether it is acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”*

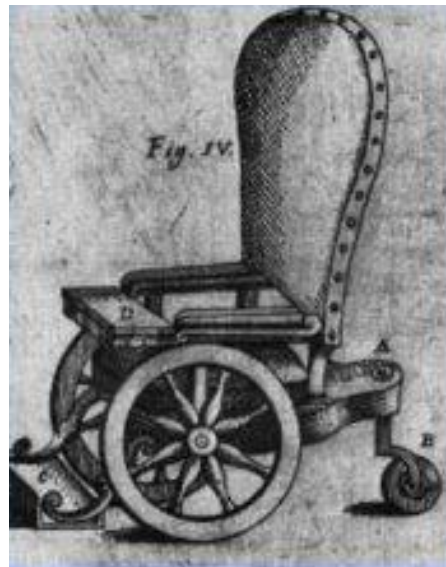


Source: <https://www.theodysseyonline.com/its-time-to-normalize-disability>



# WHEELCHAIR

The first record dates back to the 2nd century BC as a wheeled seat being used for transporting the person with a disability. Wheeled chairs entered Europe in the 12th century.




# OUR (almost) FIRST STEP

We interviewed six SCI persons each, one “tetra”, one “para”

The sample of the Interview template:

*-Please describe your usual day during the weekend. The day is divided on usually day tasks, from the morning to the evening.*

	Approx. (from to)	Tasks - Usually	Special equipment (mobility aids and/or assistive technology that you are using)	Special equipment (mobility aids and/or assistive technology that would improve your life)
	1.	<b>Wake up – Leaving the house</b> (please describe if you need help or doing by yourself, describe also if there is something special, not regular task)		
		1.1. Getting up	1.1.1. Electrically adjusted bed (No need for help)	1.1.1.1.
		1.2. Going to the toilet/bathroom	1.2.2. Garden chair Hand rails and shower rod Hand grip reacher	1.2.2.2. "Buffet table" with wheels
		1.3. To put on clothes	1.3.3.	1.3.3.3.



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## During the Interviews we found that:

- ❖ The level of importance for individual assistive devices is **almost the same in each (six) country** (wheelchair, access to home, computer technology, car, etc.).
- ❖ Mobility aid and assistive devices needs change during the life cycle of a person with SCI (factors include aging, education, employment, change of health status, etc.).
- ❖ Appropriate mobility aids and assistive devices maximize self-esteem and have a positive psychosocial impact.
- ❖ Access to quality and appropriate mobility aids and assistive devices **is diverse across the different countries** (very limited).



# QUESTIONNAIRE

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We sent out a questionnaire to all ESCIF SCI organisations throughout Europe and received answers from 17 countries.

▶ **Intro section**

We asked for name of the national SCI organisation, number of people with SCI in the country and number of members in the organisation.



# QUESTION 1.

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- *We asked our members to describe the common process of obtaining the first wheelchair after SCI in their country.*

**Results:** In almost all countries persons with a new SCI get their first wheelchair in the hospital or rehabilitation centre. These institutes help with all procedures and propose the most appropriate wheelchair. Only in Ukraine is neither the person with SCI nor an SCI specialist involved in this procedure.





## QUESTION 2.

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- ▶ *We asked our members to describe the common process for a renewal wheelchair.*

*We also included the question, “Who pays for it?”*

**Results:** In most countries the procedure for obtaining a renewal wheelchair is basically the same as for the first wheelchair, but the person with SCI and the local community are more involved. There are differences among the countries regarding are who pays for it. It may be on the national level (Czech Republic, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Scotland and Slovenia), regional/local level (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, Spain and Sweden) or a combination of both levels (Austria, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine).



## QUESTION 3.

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- ▶ *We asked our members, “What is the time period to renewal?”*

**Results:** The answers were almost the same, ranging from 3 to 5 years. In some countries a renewal can be obtained whenever the old one wears out, or when the person has needs that can only be solved with a new wheelchair or a new model (Denmark, Finland, Scotland and Sweden). We agree that with proper maintenance a wheelchair should last for at least 5 years.



## QUESTION 4.

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- ▶ *We asked a final, very important question, “How much do they cover?”*

We divided our results three categories: good (😊), satisfactory/adequate (😐) and poor (😞).

- 😊 The entire price is covered and the person with SCI is an equal partner to select the wheelchair that suits them.
- 😐 Most of the cost for a standard active wheelchair is covered (full price of the wheelchair being approximately 3.500,00 EUR).
- 😞 Less than 1/2 of the cost for a standard active wheelchair is covered.



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## Results



😊 Austria, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden

😐 Belgium

☹️ Czech Republic, Slovenia, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine



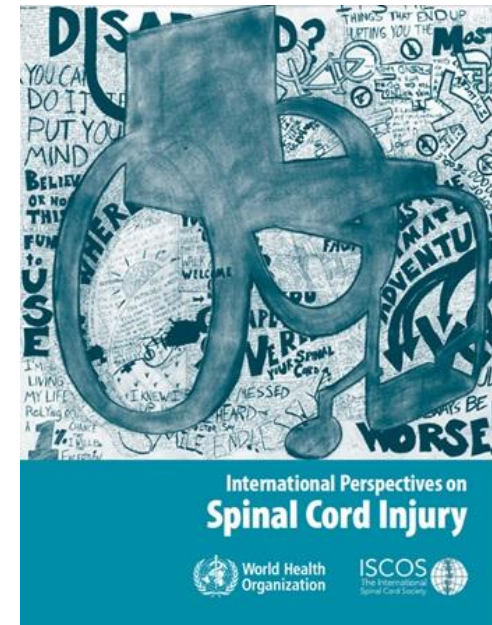
# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## ▶ IPSCI

International Perspectives on  
Spinal Cord Injury, IPSCI

IPSCI

A collaborative WHO  
publication project



*“Access to a broad range of assistive technology can enable people with SCI to perform everyday activities that they would otherwise be unable to perform.”*



# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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- ▶ WHO – GATE
- ▶ WHO project



World Health  
Organization



# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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## ▶ PRESENT

Currently, new technologies based on computer and communication technologies bring a new perspective in the area of mobility aids and assistive devices.



# DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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## ▶ FUTURE

What is the future of “Mobility aids and assistive devices?”





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**THANK YOU!**

