

Executive 's Report 2017 – 2018

This report covers the period from the last ESCIF Congress and Assembly of Delegates – May 2017 to the present in August 2018.

ESCIF Congress 2017 in Piran, Slovenia



In 2017, the annual ESCIF Congress was organised in cooperation with the Slovenian Paraplegic Association, Zveza paraplegikov Slovenije. The congress was held for the twelfth time and for the first time in Slovenia. The congress took a place in a beautiful and accessible hotel on the Adriatic coast, Dom Paraplegikov, which is well worth a visit for a summer vacation.

The theme of the congress was *Roadmap after SCI. Following the same path?*

This topic is very important to obtain a good quality of life of people living with SCI and to increase life expectancy with as little as possible SCI related problems during the course of life. To achieve this we must walk hand in hand with government and legislation, medical care and NGOs. In addition, other people living with SCI. Different European models were presented in the congress and the participants could share their experiences and views in different workshops.

Preparation for the ESCIF Congress 2018



Our current hosts, Česká asociace paraplegiků - CZEPA, met with the ESCIF Executive in Piran during the Congress last year and later in Prague in October, this year to discuss the programme and practicalities of this year's Congress. ESCIF is very grateful to the Czech organisation for arranging the Congress.

ESCIF Congress grants

The idea of the ESCIF Congress grants is to cover congress registration costs and a fixed amount towards travelling expenses for one participant (plus assistant where required). Members were informed of the possibility to apply for a grant for last year's Congress; however, no member organisation took the opportunity.

To the Congress this year one organisation has applied for grants and the application was approved.

ESCIF Executive meetings

The Executive has most of the time this year due to illness been without the presence of the President, Jane Horsewell, like last year. We have also experienced, as well due to illness, some periods with absence from some members in the Executive.

The Executive has held one meeting “in person” in the course of the year: in Prague in the middle of October 2017 (together with a meeting with the organisers of the present Congress). As usual, a meeting has also been held in the days running up to the present Congress.

In addition, the Executive had a number of telephone meetings throughout the year and has been in regular contact via email.

Ambassador program

The Ambassador program originally came up as an idea during the strategy group meeting in October 2016. The Executive continued to develop the idea and it was launched in January 2018. The purpose of this program is to improve the communication within ESCIF. In practice, it means that the members in the Executive will keep in regular contact with all the member organisations through on-line meetings, mails and preferably a visit some time. The idea is to get to know one another a little bit better so that ESCIF and the members know a bit more about each other’s hopes, dreams, challenges, projects and achievements.

Communication with members: ESCIF website, Facebook and newsletter

Once again, this year we have tried to post regular updates on the ESCIF website but we still lack input from member organisations. The Executive would like to encourage all member organisations to use the website to announce and report on events and initiatives in their country, to find collaborators for projects and activities, and to post updates on ongoing projects. Please send your information to secretary@escif.org or to 2ndexecutive@escif.org.

The research sides of the website has been updated with the report, Progress and prospects of chronic spinal cord injury research – 2018. Corinne JEANMAIRE writes these annual reports.

A new part on the ESCIF website will be launch soon, “Ageing with SCI”. These sides is the result of the ESCIF Ageing Well Working Group. ESCIF would like to thank the working group for their work and with a special thanks to Joy Sinclair from SIA in UK.

During the year, the Executive has worked on a new ESCIF website, which will be launched during 2018.

We have also increased the updates on the ESCIF Facebook page. If you haven't liked us on FB yet, don't forget to do so!

ESCIF at ISCoS 2017 in Dublin



Once again, ESCIF was asked to plan the consumer workshop for the ISCoS meeting. The Vice-President of ESCIF, chaired the session since the President of ESCIF unfortunately was unable to attend the ISCoS scientific meeting.

New for this year was that the consumer meeting was held

during the Discipline Specific Meetings. Just like last year's ISCoS, ESCIF had unknowingly chosen the same theme as many other workshops; Family Roles. Fiona Bolger from Spinal Injuries Ireland talked about how their services for family members are organized, Tara Jeji from Canada talked about parenting and Kim Anderson-Erisman talked about which impact personal assistance has on family roles.

ESCIF at HeSCoS in Thessaloniki



The Hellenic Association of Paraplegic, section of Macedonia – Thrace invited ESCIF to speak about peer support at the second National Scientific Meeting of the Hellenic Spinal Cord Section HS of PRM, entitled "From Prevention to Community Reintegration, working together" in November 2017 in Thessaloniki.

The vice-president of ESCIF attended the congress.

The Hellenic Association of Paraplegic, section of Macedonia – Thrace was excellent hosts. The Greek association is applying to become a member of ESCIF at this year's congress.