



HRVATSKE UDRUGE PARAPLEGIČARA I TETRAPLEGIČARA CROATIAN PARAPLEGIC AND TETRAPLEGIC ALLIANCE

HUPT JE ČLAN EUROPSKE FEDERACIJE OSOBA SA SPINALNOM OZLJEDOM (ESCIF) I MEĐUNARODNE FEDERACIJE OSOBA SA FIZIČKIM INVALIDITETOM (FIMITIC)
CPTA IS MEMBER OF EUROPEAN SPINAL CORD INJURY FEDERATION (ESCIF) AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY (FIMITIC)

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ESCIF

c/o Swiss Paraplegic Association

Kantonsstrasse 40

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Subject: In Memory of Manda Knežević

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Manda Knežević, one of the co-founders of ESCIF, co-founder and long-term President of Croatian Paraplegic and Tetraplegic Alliance. Manda passed away on Saturday, 28th of November, at the age of 68. The life and career of our beloved Manda shows true example for future generations on how to fight for a better position and rights of persons with disabilities in Croatia.

Manda Knežević was among the first in Croatia to introduce the concept of peer counseling, actively participating in multidisciplinary rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injury. As one of the founders of the movement of independent living of persons with disabilities, she realized early on that the premise of independence is the creation of equal opportunities and conditions for personal development and learning and shaping the environment according to the needs of persons with disabilities.

In 2001, together with several enthusiasts she advocated for the establishment of SOIH - Network of Women with Disabilities which enabled personal empowerment of women, established models of better conditions for education and easier employment. In 2006, she participated in the development of an expert platform for providing personal assistant services to persons with the severest disabilities, and later in the development of the first proposal for a draft Personal Assistant Act.

Manda has dedicated more than forty years of work to persistent and patient removal of barriers through research, numerous recommendations, brochures, guides and articles and public campaigns, educational workshops and the creation of a barrier-free and prejudice-free society.

In honor of Manda Knežević, CPTA started an initiative to name a new National Rehabilitation Centre in Croatia (that is yet to be build and finish in 2022) after her.

Bojan Hajdin

President of Croatian Paraplegic and Tetraplegic Alliance (CPTA)

