

ESCIF congress 2021 in Nottwil, Switzerland

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Wednesday 25 th August 2021		Speakers/Remarks
14:00	Arrival of delegates at the Zürich airport, at the latest!	Transport: secretary@escif.org
13.30	Congress Check-in (until 5 pm)	Hotel reception
14.00	Visit of the Swiss Paraplegic Centre & Para Forum	Entrance Guido A. Zäch Institute (GZI)
16:00	Welcome reception	Foyer GZI
17:00	Opening of Congress (Auditorium Guido A. Zäch Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vice President of European Spinal Cord Injury Federation (ESCIF) ○ Director of the Swiss Paraplegics Association (SPA) ○ President of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPF) 	Nuutti Hiltunen Laurent Prince Heidi Hanselmann
17:30	Introduction to the congress by the president of ESCIF	Nuutti Hiltunen
17:45	Keynote: The Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in European Countries Prof. Dr. Markus Schefer, Switzerland University of Basel, Faculty of Law Professor for constitutional and administrative law, Member of the U. N. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
18:45	End of working day	
19:30	Get-together dinner	Restaurant Vivace

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Thursday 26 th August 2021		Speakers/Remarks
9:00	<p>Are social relationships an underestimated resource for mental health in persons with spinal cord injury? Evidence from 22 countries</p> <p>Dr. Christine Fekete, Medical Sociologist and Group Leader at Swiss Paraplegic Research</p> <p>Abstract:</p> <p>Although the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognizes the critical importance of social participation, many persons living with spinal cord injury still experience substantial barriers to participation, such as the engagement in social relationships. Besides the fact that social relationships are an important aspect of participation, it might also present a valuable resource to strengthen mental health. This presentation shows how social relationships and mental health were related in the 12'330 participants from the International Spinal Cord Injury community survey (InSCI) from 22 countries. It becomes evident that qualitative aspects of social relationships, such as feelings of belongingness or satisfaction with relationships are highly important for mental health in all countries. We conclude that interventions to establish and maintain a high quality of social relationships should be considered in public health interventions and rehabilitation programs to reduce long-term mental health problems in persons with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI).</p>	
9:45	<p>Alternative report and participation of DPOs in the proceedings before the committee on the rights of persons with disabilities</p> <p>Borut Sever, president of the National Council of Disabled Persons' Organizations Slovenia (NSIOS)</p> <p>Abstract:</p> <p>Presentation of Alternative Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the Republic of Slovenia. Presentation of the preparation of the alternative report, which was prepared by Slovenian DPOs. The importance of participation of DPOs in proceedings on monitoring the implementation of the CRPD. Participation of Slovenian National Council of DPOs (NSIOS) in the proceedings before the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, regarding implementation of the CRPD in the Slovenia.</p>	
10:30	Coffee break with exhibition and poster session	

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Thursday 26 th August 2021		Speakers/Remarks
11:00	<p>Switzerland's health system response to rehabilitation needs and rights of people with spinal cord injury</p> <p>Dimitrios Skempes, MPH, PhD, Disability Policy and Implementation Research Group, Swiss Paraplegic Research, Nottwil, CH</p> <p>Abstract</p> <p>The goal of this presentation is to describe Switzerland's health system response to rehabilitation needs of persons with SCI. The analysis of a range of health system indicators frequently reported in health policy research reveal a relative strong picture of the rehabilitation system, especially in regards to structural capacity, coverage and quality. The legal and regulatory framework governing provision of rehabilitation affords a high degree of human rights and financial protection to persons with SCI, although prioritization of SCI rehabilitation in national health policy is weak. Efforts to monitor quality and enforce evidence-based standards in SCI rehabilitation are positive signs of commitment to continuous learning and quality improvement. Paradoxically however, rehabilitation information management systems remain fragmented which impedes timely access to accurate data for planners, decision makers and the public. Despite high satisfaction with SCI rehabilitation care, there remain significant gaps in assessments of the quality, access and outcomes of SCI rehabilitation compared to other countries. To promote integrated SCI rehabilitation further, there is a need for broader engagement of stakeholders to review regressive elements of the system, pursue and align policies, strengthen the collection of information relevant for policy decision making and balance quality gains with access improvements through targeted investments and optimal planning.</p>	
11:45	<p>Title: Procurement of double stack wagons in Switzerland (DOSTO)- A decision for 40 years</p> <p>Dr. iur Caroline Hess-Klein, Inclusion Handicap, the umbrella organization of disabled person's organizations in Switzerland and head of its civil rights department.</p> <p>Abstract:</p> <p>In 2018, the umbrella organization Inclusion Handicap filed a complaint in relation to the largest order of railway carriage in Swiss history. Inclusion Handicap hold the opinion that the 62 new train compositions lead to disadvantages for persons in a wheelchair as well as for persons with hearing and visual impairments. For example the ramp at the entrance has a slope of 15% so that many persons in a wheelchair can't use the train independently. Because the Federal Administrative Court rejected the appeal in every point but one, Inclusion Handicap took the case to the Federal Court (court of last resort). The Federal Court now has to decide whether the right of persons with disabilities to use public transportation independently is protected by Swiss Law in principle.</p>	
12:30	Lunch	Foyer GZI

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Thursday 26 th August 2021		
13:45	Congress Foto	Entrance GZI
14:00	Workshops held by University Basel	Workshop topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in domestic CRPD processes and in the implementation of the CRPD for organisations 2. Accessibility of public transport and buildings 3. Accessibility and participation in the Labour Market
16:15	Presentation of workshop results in plenary	
17:00	ESCIF Members input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17:00: Accessible Charging stations (Erik Berndsson, RTP, Sweden) - 17:40: ESCIF Help Alliance (Kevin Schultes, FGQ, Germany) 	
18:15	End of working day	
19:30	Congress Dinner & Ambassador program	
Friday 27 th August 2021		Speakers/Remarks
09:00	Assembly of Delegates	Chair: Frans Penninx
10:15	Coffee break with exhibition and poster session	
10:45	Ambassador program	Nuutti Hiltunen
12:00	Invitation to the ESCIF Congress 2022	Milan Kašiak
12:15	End of Congress	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	Optional sightseeing & possible extension of your stay	
14:00	Departure of congress participants/delegates to Zürich airport.	Transport: secretary@escif.org

* The following programme may be subject to changes.

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