

Newsletter February 2021

Dear ESCIF Colleagues

We hope that this newsletter finds you all well. First signs of the light at the end of the tunnel emerge. Therefore the board decided to proceed with the organisation of the ESCIF congress, in the end of August in Nottwil. For more info please see below. Also, in this newsletter you will learn more about the latest creation of ESCIF, the ESCIF Forum and a last call to order masks from the Help Alliance. Enjoy reading.

Register for the ESCIF congress in Nottwil

As announced in our last newsletter, the organising committee is working hard to have an interesting congress in Nottwil. The congress is held from **Wednesday, 25th to Friday, 27th August 2021**. We are convinced that the pandemic will be less critical in autumn, many persons will be vaccinated and that gathering together with precaution measures will be possible. The deadline for congress registration is: **26th May 2021**.

Congress Program

The program consists of a variety of topics related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Key note on Wednesday will give you an introduction into the Implementation of the CRPD in European Countries. The first presentation on Thursday morning will talk about barriers of participation and the implication to social relations in different European countries, followed by a presentation of the Alternative Report to the CRPD in Slovenia. After a coffee break, Switzerland's health system response to rehabilitation needs and rights of people with spinal cord injury, will be looked at. And finally a court case against the largest order of railway carriage in Switzerland by the Swiss umbrella organisation "Inclusion Handicap" is presented. In the afternoon, workshops will be held, which will be wrapped-up in a paper after the congress. We are confident to present you an interesting and valuable program. For further information and for registration see www.escif.org. Please be aware to register **via the new website www.escif.org**. You should receive a "document sent" notification in the web browser.

Call for poster abstracts and member's input

We are looking forward to receive your abstract to present a poster or your Member's Input. If you would like to show a poster during the congress about your research or project, please send a PDF of your poster to: secretary@escif.org. Also member's input is highly welcome. It can be a short presentation of your organisation's interesting project, event or debate. The form of the members input is quite open and can be a 10 minutes oral session or a poster. If you would like to present your member's input, please send your documents to: secretary@escif.org. Deadline to submit poster abstracts and member's input: **30st June 2021**.

New platform for online information exchange: ESCIF Forum

The ESCIF Forum is a new event to intensify contact to the ESCIF members and their members. The focus will be to facilitate knowledge transfer and information exchange among all persons interested in SCI. Planed is to have 3 - 4 online presentations by researchers, experienced peers, companies or representatives from organisations or government. Key is to generate added value for the ESCIF members and persons with SCI in general.

We will start the ESCIF Forum on **Monday, 29th March, at 6pm** with the topic of the ESCIF Help Alliance. Our president, Stefan Jorlev and project manager, Kevin Schultes, will present details of the project and the impact it generated in the SCI community. The second presentation on **Monday, 7th June, at 6pm** will be about the publication: "Employment among people with spinal cord injury in 22 countries across the world: results from the International Spinal Cord Injury (InSCI) Community Survey". Presenter is Urban Schwegler, PHD and Group leader at Swiss Paraplegic research. Please save the dates!! The invitation and link for the online presentation will be sent shortly before the event.

ESCIF Help Alliance: Need for masks?

The ESCIF Help Alliance project was very successful and was able to show what impact ESCIF can have to the SCI community in Europe. The project distributed over 750'000 masks for free to the ESCIF members. There are still about 150'000 masks available. So if you have a need for more masks for an event, meeting or congress for your members get in contact with your ambassador. Please



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hurry, ESCIF needs to empty the storage until end of February. To show your support of the Help Alliance to our sponsors, please also share and like the Help Alliance:

Web: www.protectthevulnerable.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/236655657771560>

We wish you all the best in these critical times.

For the Executive Board

Stefan Jorlev, President