

Newsletter May 2021

Dear ESCIF Colleagues

We hope that this newsletter finds you well and healthy. Although the pandemic seems to be under control in most European countries, the organisation of meetings in person and related travelling is still difficult. However, as you can read below, the ESCIF board is convinced that the congress and the ESCIF assembly of delegates can be held as planned. Also, in this newsletter you can read about the new ESCIF Forum. The ESCIF board is looking forward to your registration for our events.

New deadline for the registration to the ESCIF congress

The topic of this year's congress is the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)". The congress is held from **Wednesday, 25th to Friday, 27th August 2021**. Although information on travelling restrictions are changing frequently, we would highly appreciate if you would register for the congress as soon as possible. Until the deadline of **Monday, 21st June 2021 your registration will have no financial consequences** if you or the organising committee has to cancel the congress due to the Corona situation.

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 held by Prof. Dr. Markus Schefer on Wednesday will give you an introduction into the Implementation of the CRPD in European countries. The first presentation on Thursday morning will focus on 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 presented. And finally, a court case against the largest order of railway carriage in Switzerland by the Swiss umbrella organisation "Inclusion Handicap" will be presented. In the afternoon, workshops will be held, which will be wrapped-up in a paper after the congress. Finally on Friday morning the ESCIF assembly will get together and first results of the workshops will be presented. For further information and for registration see www.escif.org (**Deadline is Monday, 21st June 2021**). 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 ESCIF 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 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 projects, events or debates. The form of the members input 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 for both is **30th June 2021**.

20 participants in 1st ESCIF Forum

The 1st ESCIF Forum on Monday, 29th March was very successful. ESCIF president, Stefan Jorlev, and project manager, Kevin Schultes, presented details of the Help Alliance project and the impact it generated in the SCI community in Europe. Following the presentation there was a discussion round and several participants expressed their gratitude to ESCIF and the project responsible.

Registration for 2nd ESCIF Forum

Work is a key outcome of rehabilitation in SCI. Therefore, the 2nd ESCIF Forum will be on **Monday, 7th June, at 6pm** 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". The presentation will compare employment in different European countries and we are looking forward to get background knowledge by Co-Author Urban Schwegler. Urban Schwegler is PHD and Group leader at Swiss Paraplegic research.

Registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrcOCurjItHN37QacXciSwB-00u5kPASCy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information to join the meeting.

A 3rd ESCIF Forum will be organised in fall. If you have ideas for presentations or research topics of interest for the SCI community, let us know.

For the Executive Board
Stefan Jorlev, President