

Newsletter: January 2022

Dear ESCIF Colleagues

We hope you had a good start into 2022 and hope that this Newsletter finds you well and healthy. In this letter you can read about an interesting ESCIF Forum on February 21st concerning Vocational integration in Switzerland. Also you can find news about the 2022 Congress in Slovakia. We are looking forward to finding ourselves in a less pandemic world next spring, and seeing many of you in Spa town Piestany.

ESCIF Forum on Monday, February 21st, 6pm, Topic: Vocational integration of persons with SCI in Switzerland

After having addressed the international perspective on Labour Market Participation of persons with SCI in June 2021, the second ESCIF Forum on work integration will focus on the Swiss situation. Dr. Urban Schwegler will present evidence from the Swiss Spinal Cord Injury Study (SwiSCI) and provide a closer look into the comparatively high percentage (63%) of persons with SCI in Switzerland who are engaged in paid work. Furthermore, the presentation will draw attention to the interaction between personal and system-level determinants of labour market participation such as the disability pension scheme. Urban Schwegler will also talk about the vocational integration services provided at the Swiss Paraplegic Centre in Nottwil and point out their contribution to a sustainable work integration. Finally, he will introduce a "Job Matching Tool" that was developed in the "Work and Integration" group at Swiss Paraplegic Research and will highlight its implications for integrating persons with SCI into meaningful and sustainable jobs.

Presenter: PhD Urban Schwegler, Groupleader "Work and Integration", Swiss Paraplegic Research.

To follow the presentation please use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91591327573?pwd=S1hCVE5UUUJlBaVV4eUdiS29ObUZwQT09>

We hope that our online Forums become more popular offering us, not only new knowledge and information, but also an arena for mutual discussion in the European SCI scene.

ESCIF Congress 2022 in the beautiful Spa town Piestany

We are happy to invite you to the ESCIF congress 2022 from Wednesday 25th May to Saturday 28th May to Piestany. After the feedback from last year's congress, this year the congress lasts 4 days. This is why we increased the fee by 50 Euros. The congress venue is very well equipped for wheelchair users and has a perfect environment for a few additional days after the congress. The topic of the congress will be: **Best practice in SCI rehabilitation**. Some key speakers are already announced but please, visit our website for the latest updates of the program. Also, registration is already open. If you have members input or a poster to present, please send it to: secretary@escif.org. For all further info please visit www.escif.org

ESCIF Assembly and election

This year we have elections during our assembly at the congress in Piestany. Vice president Nuutti Hiltunen's 4 year term as a board member comes to an end. He agreed to continue his work for ESCIF. However, the board would like to ask the ESCIF members if there are any other candidates for his role. Also, if you have a proposal for the assembly, please send all your info to secretary@escif.org until Friday, April 1st 2022.

Project group "Accessible charging stations"

The working group for the project "Accessible charging stations" started its work. Currently the group is working on an action plan to raise awareness for the problem. Also, the group works on a detailed manual for interested stakeholders. The working group will present results at this year's congress in Piestany.

For the Executive Board



Nuutti Hiltunen, Vice-President