



NEWSLETTER July 2016



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Dear ESCIF friends and Colleagues

Summer is with us at last!

You are probably already on a summer holiday, therefore we wish you a pleasant summer. Herewith we send you some summer reading and we will be back in September.

On behalf of the ESCIF Executive
Jane and Gunilla

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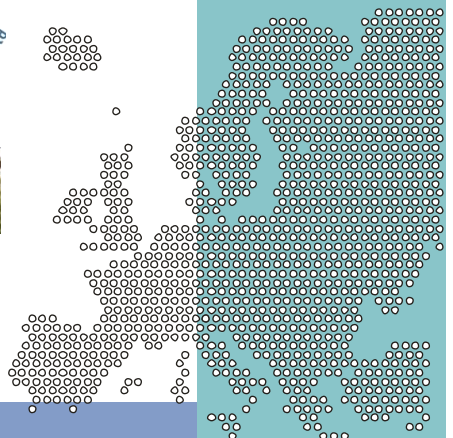
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ESCIF Congress and Assembly 2016

The 11th ESCIF Congress and Assembly took place during 11 – 13 May 2016 in the beautiful city of Vienna. This was the second time that the ESCIF Congress visited Vienna and it was once again organised by the Austrian ESCIF member organisation, Verband der Querschnittgelähmten Österreichs – VQÖ.



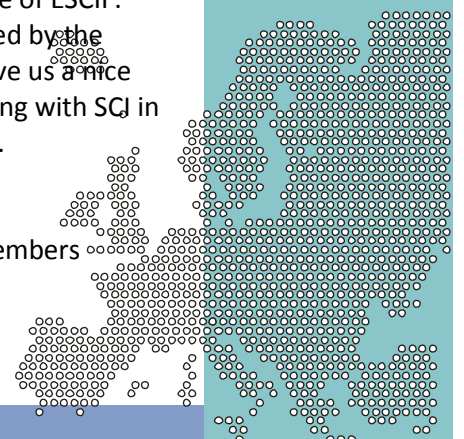
The theme of the congress was “Successful Integration after SCI” and what a success the congress was. It is quite clear that the Austrian organisation is professional when it comes to organising congresses as this. We once again want to thank the organising committee lead by Hannes Wiesinger for their excellent work.

The theme took its origin from the Successful Integration Project that is being run by ESCIF. The topics were connected to the focus areas of the project. The programme consisted of an interesting mixture between speakers that in one way or another work within these different fields and the working group leaders from the Successful Integration Project whom presented the groups findings. This set up lead to a high interactivity between professionals and the SCI consumers from the working groups and the audience. The discussions were many and lively.

A very nice start to the programme was of course the guest of honour, Dr. Erwin Buchinger, Ombudsman at the Ministry of Social Affairs in Austria, who talked about social inclusion and social integration. Interesting is that Dr. Erwin Buchinger is the first person to sign the UNCRPD.

The discussions during the Assembly were just as many and lively as they were during the congress. There were many discussions regarding statues, finances and future activities. The Executive wants to thank all the Delegates for contributing to the future of ESCIF. ESCIF has a new member. The Cyprus paraplegic’s organisation was accepted by the Assembly. The President of the organisation, Mr. Dimitris Lambrianides, gave us a nice speech about the country, the organisation and the situation for people living with SCI in Cyprus. You can all read more about the organisation on, www.opak.org.cy. We welcome our Cypriote friends to ESCIF!

All the Congress and Assembly documents can be downloaded from the Members Download section at www.escif.org.



ESCIF Congress - May 2017

Piran, Slovenia: Wednesday **10th May 2017** to **Friday 12th May 2017** ...Save the date!

The ESCIF Congress and Assembly of Delegates 2017 will take place in Piran - one of the most photogenic old cities on the Adriatic.



In 2017 the annual ESCIF Congress will be organised in cooperation with Paraplegic's Association of Slovenia. The congress is being held for the twelfth time and for the first time in the Slovenia. The congress will take place in 'Dom Paraplegikov – Health Spa & Resort' from: Wednesday 10th May to Friday 12th May 2017.

Further information about the ESCIF congress 2017 – its theme, programme, registration, optional excursions, etc – will be available soon on the ESCIF website < www.ESCIF.org > and on the congress website < www.ESCIFcongress.org >.

New accessible resort on Adriatic coast (Slovenia)

(Please send us your suggestions.)

At the beginning of May (this year) the Paraplegic's Association of Slovenia (PAS) opened a unique health resort. Its aim is to encourage and support paraplegics ~ of all Nations ~ to meet and share a wealth of cultural experiences during the course of unforgettable vacations.



The resort is idealistically situated in Slovenia, on amidst its picturesque Adriatic Coast and nestling close to the Strunjan Nature Park. Here, you will enjoy meeting interesting and yet diverse cultures in a single beautiful location, where the agreeable outdoor climate (and the sun's warmth is enriched by the sea air) is a welcome relief for guests from northern latitudes, and indeed from the more extremes of heat or humidity of countries further south.



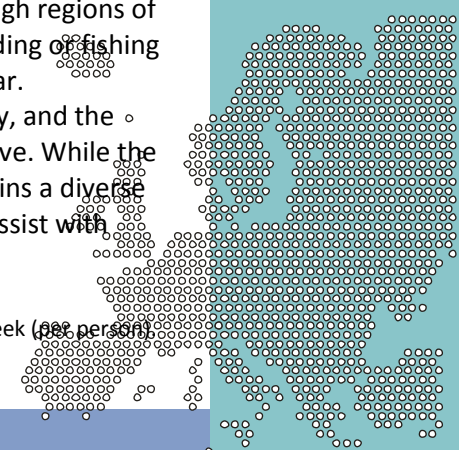
What might we offer in this very special Resort?

- Bed & Breakfast. Half board or Full board. We will be glad to help with any special dietary needs or choices. (Please discuss these at the time of booking).
- A choice of medicinal, preventive, remedial, and alternative healthcare programmes especially catered to paraplegic's well-being, recuperation, and long-term health.
- A select choice of accessibility - according to your needs or preference - Bath tub or shower. Left or right access to toilet. Ceiling lift for easy transfer; bath, toilet, bed and wheelchair (subject to availability).
- A Therapeutic centre with fully qualified specialist Physiotherapists.
- Maintaining health programmes in fitness, sauna, basketball ground, and more.
- Our professional and courteous staff will be glad to tailor activities to the individual or a group.
- A 'Taste of Istria' – our own excellent chefs present Gastronomic delights unique to the region.
- A fantastic outdoor pool with fully filtered seawater (NB the pool edge is the same high as a wheelchair, plus there is an elevator).
- Outdoor paths, interesting and peaceful gardens, and courts.
- Underground car-parking with security cameras.

Other unique features and rare opportunities:

- Shuttle Bus to and from (Piran, Portorož, Izola)
- Numerous hand-biking trails in the area, including alongside the narrow gauge railway Parenzana route that leads to the fascinating old port towns of Portorož and the larger more modern shopping and trade metropolis of Koper.
- The resort is ideally situated be a base from which to visit Slovenia's natural, historical and cultural heritage. Coastal & countryside routes through regions of outstanding beauty, Historical buildings and steeped in history trading of fishing port towns, along with festivals of all sorts held throughout the year.
- And only a little further away: Venice is only an hour boat trip away, and the extraordinary Postojna cave network is within an hour pleasant drive. While the world famed Stud Farm at Lipica is even closer... Our resort maintains a diverse selection of tourist leaflets and our reception staff will be glad to assist with accessibility advice and bookings.

Ask for prices: info@domparaplegikov.si (Exp: Adult - Half Board: 49,00 € Day / 320,00 € week (per person))



ISCOS 2016

ESCIF will attend the ISCOS Congress 2016 in Vienna. ESCIF has sent in an abstract for the Successful Integration Project. The abstract has been accepted as a poster. ESCIF has also been asked to once again organise the Consumer workshop and we will do so.



Spinal Cord Injury Day - 5th September 2016

"International Days" are celebrated to mark important aspects of human life and history. The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) has decided to observe Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Day on 5th September with the intention of increasing awareness amongst the General Public. It is anticipated that the awareness would facilitate an inclusive life for persons with disability and ensure greater chances of success of Prevention Programmes.

5th September, a neutral day without any special significance, was considered as SCI Day since the weather across the globe is likely to be conducive for outdoor activities. Also, schools and colleges are generally open allowing the younger generation to be targeted. Visit www.worldsciday.org for more information.



Strategy group

The Executive has asked some members from the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK and Germany to join the Executive in Lobbach, Germany, during 15 – 16 October for a brainstorming meeting to discuss the future of ESCIF. We want to discuss the history of ESCIF, where we are today and where we want to be in 5 and 10 years from now. If anyone has any ideas or contributions about the topics for the Strategy group **feel free to mail them to 1stexecutive@escif.org before 1st October.**

Successful Integration Project Report

The final report from the Successful Integration Project has been delayed. There are various reasons for this such as late working group reports and illness within the working groups and the Executive. We will send out the report after the summer vacations.



International projects

During the Assembly this year suggestions from members came up to launch international projects with EU-funding as a way to finance different activities within ESCIF. Most of these funds are available for national NGOs with collaborations with other organisations in other countries. ESCIF can of course be partners in such projects. We would like to urge the ESCIF members to consider ESCIF as a partner in different international projects that you launch and that way contribute to future activities in ESCIF.

At the same time, we want to make you aware of the time lines. ESCIF has been contacted a couple of times already with the request of being a partner in different international projects. A numerous times ESCIF has been such a partner. However, a couple of times we've had to decline the request due to very short preparation time. Sometimes the offers have arrived just a couple of days before the deadline. ESCIF cannot process these questions with such a short time line. We therefore ask you to inform us as early as possible in the process.

