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## Newsletter August 2017

Dear ESCIF friends and colleagues

First, I would like to say how super it was to see those who attended the ESCIF Congress in Piran. We missed those of you who weren't able to join us – and you missed a very interesting meeting!

I have the impression that many organisations spent time discussing the topic of 'road maps' and comparing the system in their own country with that of other countries. What an opportunity the ESCIF Congress offers us to exchange views!

Although our next Congress will not be until next year, we must not forget global SCI day on 5 September 2017. If your organisation is planning a special event to commemorate the day – please let me know your plans.

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer. In Denmark it has been the coldest July for over 10 years ;o( . Some of you, however, might have preferred slightly cooler temperatures!

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Best regards from me on behalf of the ESCIF Executive

Jane

## Content

- **ESCIF Congress 2017**
- **Future ESCIF Congresses**
- **Ageing well project**
- **Elections to the Executive**
- **ISCoS 2017**

## ESCIF Congress 2017

For the first time the ESCIF Congress and the Assembly of Delegates was held

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in Slovenia. Zveza paraplegikov Slovenije, the Slovenian Paraplegic Association organised the Congress in one of its accessible resorts, Dom Paraplegikov, on the Adriatic coast near the town of Piran. ESCIF would like to extend its sincere thanks to the organisers for their hospitality and congratulate them for a well-organised congress.



The theme this year was 'Roadmap after SCI - Following the same path?' Over 60 participants attended the congress to learn and discuss different European models of Follow-up care. Even though the theme of the Congress was narrower this time, the topic is still very complex. Thus, ESCIF prompted the participants to continue the discussions, not only during the workshops and plenary discussion, but also remotely after the Congress.

Once again, the participants could increase their awareness thanks to the excellent speakers. Many specialists introduced the Slovenian model in detail. In

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order to have a 'larger picture' of the situation all over Europe there were also speakers from Finland, England and Serbia presenting the models in their countries.



### **Assembly of Delegates**

After carrying out the annual business there were a number of new points in the agenda. Here are a few highlights:

The Assembly unanimously approved [extension of Art. 18 of ESCIF Statues](#).

ESCIF is proud to announce two new members, [ALCIA](#) from Albania and [Paraplegické motivačné centrum](#) from Slovakia.

New website

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Delegates emphasized the need of having a virtual space, where the members could easily communicate and exchange information and documents. ESCIF is initiating actions to meet this need together with a new website.

You can read the minutes from the Assembly of Delegates and download all documents from ESCIF Congress 2017 on [escif.org](http://escif.org)

Visit our Facebook to see the [pictures from ESCIF Congress 2017](#).



## **Future ESCIF congresses**

We hope that next year's congress will be organised in the Czech Republic, however it is not completely decided upon yet. We would like to draw your attention to future congresses. It is still at an early stage but time flies and it is a large but rewarding commitment to organise an ESCIF congress. It is important that members interested in organising a congress contact ESCIF at an early stage so the discussions can begin as soon as possible. Among other things, ESCIF has drawn up a fact sheet with all the necessary information so that the organisers know what they commit to. ESCIF is also preparing a checklist to function as a guide for the organisers to help them organise a successful ESCIF congress.



## **Ageing well project**

The ageing well project is moving forward. The project plan has been revised and is now focusing on creating an 'Ageing Well' section on the ESCIF website.



The section will be similar to the research section on the website. The working group will be responsible for filling the section with information with approval of the Executive. To start up this phase the working group will meet at MSS in Lobbach in August. ESCIF has allocated the remaining Verimatrix funds to cover the cost of the workshop. We are also grateful to MSS for offering a very good deal to the working group.

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## **Elections to the Executive**

During next congress three positions in the Executive is up for election, including the position of the President. We would therefore like to urge the members to start up discussions in your organisations for nomination of members to the executive already now. If you need any information about the obligations of the Executive, you can mail Urs Styger at [secretary@escif.org](mailto:secretary@escif.org) and you can read the statues on [www.escif.org](http://www.escif.org).

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## **ISCoS 2017**

ISCoS 2017 will take place in Dublin, Ireland in October. ESCIF will as usual have an active role and organise a consumer workshop. ESCIF will be represented by the Vice-President, Gunilla Åhrén.

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