

ISPRM-WHO-Liaison Committee

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ISPRM's Statement

(referring to: Health 2020 implementation and challenges or Health 2020 monitoring framework)

The strategic objectives of European Policy Framework "Health 2020" are (1) improving health for all and reducing health inequalities and (2) improving leadership and participatory governance for health. In line with these objectives, this should include the provision of rehabilitation for persons with health conditions experiencing disability. According to the World Report on Disability (2011) this includes around 15 % of the global population and it will increase globally due to chronic health conditions and ageing population.

Disability recognized by WHO as a global public health issue, human right issue and development priorities. In May 2014, WHO approved WHO global disability action plan 2014-2021: Better health for all people with disability, which has vision a world in which all persons with disabilities and their families live in dignity, with equal right and opportunities and are able to achieve their full potential. To implement the vision, it has three main objectives: (1) to remove barriers and improve access to health services and programmes, (2) to strengthen and extend rehabilitation, habilitation, assistive technology, assistance and support services, and community-based rehabilitation and (3) to strengthen collection of relevant and internationally comparable data on disability and support research on disability and related services. Thus, this is a major objective of health policy to improve the access to health and rehabilitation, rehabilitation services and research in the field.

Considering disability tend to be increased in Europe, because of the ageing population and chronic health conditions and with regard to the high impact of disability in the society and the importance of rehabilitation as "a set of measures that assist individuals who experience, or are likely to experience disability, to achieve and maintain optimal functioning in interaction with their environments" the international Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in agreement with the European associations related to Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in this field strongly claims to include rehabilitation into the Health 2020 implementation and monitoring framework with the goal that every person in need of rehabilitation receives rehabilitation on the highest possible service level. Additionally, ISPRM recommends to put the reaction to the approved "WHO global disability action plan 2014-2021: Better health for all people with disability" on the future meeting of WHO Regional Europe.

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