

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

A strong recovery after the pandemic and steady advancements in our digital presence



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

After the COVID-19 pandemic slowly ended in 2022 and many government restrictions were given up, EUROSPINE could offer most of its activities in the same or even improved format as we did before the pandemic.

A fully booked Education Week took place with additional features in Strasbourg, and our Annual Meeting was organised as a full onsite meeting with many new innovative offerings in the attractive city of Milan. Altogether, almost 3,390 onsite participants from 87 countries came together in Milan, which was one of the strongest recovery a medical congress has seen after the pandemic.

Our ongoing clear focus on creating strong and unique benefits for our members, stakeholders and patients even during the difficult pandemic years has fully paid out and is a strong motivation to stick to our way forward strategy, which has been re-assessed in a 3-day workshop with our executive committee.

In re-assessing our way forward strategy, we reinforced our full commitment to our 4 core activities: meetings, education, research and quality assurance (Spine Tango and SSoCE).

Regarding our research activities, we are proud to say that in 2022, we relaunched our grants programme, initiating an improved process to closely monitor the funded projects. The research course concept is in the process of being restructured to make it more attractive for a larger number of people to attend.

On the quality assurance side, our Spine Tango registry has used the pandemic to constantly improve its offering and the benefits for the participating hospitals. It is our clear goal to leverage all our experience and strong track record - built by acting as a registry provider for the Swiss spine registry (Siris) – for the benefit of other national societies. We have also seen a positive development with our Surgical Spine Centre of Excellence certification (SSoCE) process, with an increasing number of hospitals being certified.

On the membership side, we have got new joining members and we have initiated the project for a new data management system which is planned to be completed in 2023 or, at the latest in early 2024. At the same time, however, we must work hard to keep our existing members onboard as during the pandemic, we were confronted with quite a few members not renewing their membership.

We will continue to work hard to improve the benefits for our members and create better awareness of the many membership benefits EUROSPINE offers.

Finally In 2022, EUROSPINE achieved significant progress in marketing, communication, and digital presence, marking a pivotal year for our organisation. With this we strongly remained dedicated to strengthening our commitment to the spinal community and expanding our global reach.

Another important significant milestone in 2022 was the launch of a brand-new website. This project aimed to further enhance user experience and strengthen EUROSPINE as a leading authority in spinal care.

The new website caters to diverse user groups, providing valuable resources for healthcare professionals and patients seeking reliable spinal health information. The official unveiling of the website is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023, promising a dynamic and user-friendly experience.



Altogether 2022 was a year of a strong recovery after a very difficult and challenging pandemic time. Our ongoing pursuit of excellence in spine care is fuelled by our gratitude to all who contributed to the achievements of 2022. Together, we will continue this journey, fostering collaborations and knowledge-sharing to benefit the spinal community and beyond.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our EUROSPINE officers, our ExCom colleagues, directors and managers, our delegate of the Executive Committee, Beat Leimbacher, Emin Aghayev (Senior advisor Spine Tango), Wolf Frenkel (legal counsel), Mondial (PCO) and of course also to all our sponsors without whom none of this would have been possible.

We finally would like to thank our members for their support and wish that the membership base continues to grow. This is a key factor to offer a rich palette of services encompassing education, research, quality assurance, and premier meetings and events.

Yours sincerely, Thomas Blattert, President 2021–2022 Marco Teli, President 2022–2023



## EUROSPINE ANNUAL MEETING 2022: A RETURN TO FULLY IN-PERSON ONSITE IN MILAN – AN EVENT FILLED MEETING

For 2022, the first year after the pandemic without travel restrictions, we held an "onsite meeting" only in Milan, Italy, from 19-21 October 2022. Virtual participation was possible but not actively encouraged. The aim was to give the Annual Meeting an eventful character so participants could have unforgettable experiences packed with excellent scientific and educational content and have the opportunity to engage with industry workshops.

There were 3,390 onsite participants from 87 countries and the top country in terms of delegates was an overseas country: Mexico. For 2023, we aim to increase the number of delegates even further as people become more accustomed to travelling worldwide for high-quality scientific meetings.

## Our Programme Committee Aims to Improve the Attractiveness of our Annual Meeting Constantly and:

- Ensure expert review of submitted abstracts.
- Objectively select the highest-scoring research projects.
- Reduce the number of parallel sessions to focus on the best scientific content.
- Improve the presentation of the content by redesigning the stage layout and providing more interaction with speakers.
- Invite world-leading experts and faculty to deliver the sessions.
- Introducing "members-only" sessions to provide specific benefits to EUROSPINE members.

## Annual Meeting Structure Renovations and Attractive Committee Work

Our Scientific Programme focuses strongly on the best content available ensuring that we met the continuing demand for a high qualitative educational event also avoiding too many parallel sessions.



We decided to exclude Quick Fires to increase visibility to only oral presentations, with more extended discussions. We also introduced additional keynote lectures in a new format with various panel discussions and debates and a new stage layout in the main halls with a more open stage format—creating an interactive and engaging atmosphere more akin to an event than a meeting.

The new members-only "Breakfast Club" session format was well attended and appreciated by our members. The new members highly rated the concept of having one or two experts available for indepth discussions with a small group of delegates. This session format will be repeated and expanded to include afternoon campfire sessions at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Finding suitable candidates for our Programme Committee is and will remain essential to maintaining the high educational content of our Annual Meetings. Committee work remains challenging and labour-intensive but also attractive. In particular, we are looking for two new committee members for 2024 help plan the ten sessions best opened for the next annual meeting.

## The Outcome - An Eventful Meeting with the Best Educational Content

The programme offered a combination of research and educational content that met the interests of the delegates. Based on their feedback, we fully achieved our goal of delivering best practice educational content in a congenial atmosphere for the international Spine Community across the globe.

## REACHABLE AND ACCESSIBLE SPINAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

EUROSPINE believes that education is a crucial driver to improving the quality patient care, consistent with its values and mission. The challenge is giving the spine care community access to the latest high-quality education and training. Our goal is to implement compatible educational programmes that transcend borders and language and simultaneously address evidence-based practice tailored to local needs.

Education at EUROSPINE consists of delivering the EduWeek, Spine Tuesday webinar series, basic and advanced diploma courses, the EDISC non-surgical diploma and the diploma equivalence programme. The Education Committee ensures the high-quality delivery of these activities by adhering to best practices, continuous professional education, faculty development and quality assurance through accreditation.

## EduWeek 2022 In-Person

EUROSPINE education returned to in-person events after the entirely virtual EduWeek 2021. The virtual EduWeek 2021(with its new format of parallel sessions in 3 days) was successfully translated and delivered in person at the IRCAD in Strasbourg, France, from 27-29 June 2022. The blended learning approach with eLearning modules, case-based discussions and skills workshops was effectively delivered and attended by 161 participants representing 28 countries from all over the world. 52 faculty from 18 countries graciously gave their time to teach as video lecturers of the eLearning modules, case presenters, experts, and facilitators in case-based discussions, and instructors of the skills workshops. This year, the skills workshops included educational support such as cadaver specimens, dry bone models and simulators. The compact format consists of 6 basic modules (with modules 1 to 5 repeated in 2 cohorts) and 2 advanced modules and the EduWeek onsite totalled 13 accredited courses with 69 CME credit hours. Cerapedics, Medtronic, Nuvasive, Spineart and SpineVision supported EduWeek 2022 as industry partners. The spine care community convened in EduWeek, the highly-rated EduWeek with its collegial atmosphere and numerous networking opportunities with colleagues, faculty, participants, and industry partners.



## Spine Tuesday Webinar Series

Since 2020, with the pandemic, this virtual format has been successfully growing. The one-hour webinar series every third Tuesday of the month (except July and December) addresses vital topics, current issues, and paradigms in spine care. Altogether we ran 20 webinars; 14 addressed surgical topics and six nonsurgical. So far, almost 3000 individuals have attended the webinars.

## Diploma Equivalence: Examination and European Training Requirements

EUROSPINE has developed the Diploma Equivalence Programme, where national societies can adapt the basic diploma course modules learning outcomes and formats. Faculty of these National Society Programmes are EUROSPINE Diploma holders. Validated graduates of the National Society diploma may then obtain the EUROSPINE Diploma. Correspondingly, EUROSPINE Diploma graduates may receive the corresponding National Society diploma. Spine surgeons may also attend modules by various societies, including those offered by EUROSPINE, to complete the diploma programme—this ensures flexibility and access to all the modules.

For the past seven years, from 2016 to 2022, a total of 782 diplomas have been awarded to spine surgeons. This is in addition to an average of 70 awarded diplomas per year to those who have completed the modules traditionally in the EUROSPINE-delivered EduWeek.

## The Task Force "Spine Diploma": Promoting the Interest of a Spine Surgery Speciality in Europe

The Task Force comprises the following members:

- Thomas Blattert (Germany), EUROSPINE President 2021–2022
- Andreas Demetriades (United Kingdom), EANS President 2021–2022
- Jorge Mineiro (Portugal), Chair EBOT examinations, EUROSPINE
- Julie-Lyn Noël (Switzerland), Director of Education and Research
- Wilco Peul (Netherlands), Chair UEMS Neurosurgery section, Board of EANS
- Florian Ringel (Germany), Section Head Spine Surgery, EANS
- Dominique Rothenfluh (Switzerland), Task Force Chair, Education Council Chair, EUROSPINE

The major goal of the Task Force is to promote the interests of a spine surgery speciality in Europe by defining medical standards and promoting harmonisation of European Board Examinations. The key to achieving this is working with the EANS (European Association of Neurosurgical Societies), EBOT (European Board of Orthopaedics and Traumatology) and the UEMS (Union Européene des Médecins Spécialistes) or the European Union of Medical Specialists. The Task Force is preparing the European Training Requirements in Spine Surgery and a European board examination.

## Welcome Paulo Pereira—The New Leader of the Educational Council

Since 1 November 2022, Paulo Pereira, a neurosurgeon from Portugal, has been the new chair of The Education Council. Paulo has taken the baton of leadership from 2023 to 2025 with the objectives to:

- Deliver EduWeek 2023 at IRCAD from 26-28 JUNE 2023, with new skills sessions for the Revisions and Complications Advanced module, new innovations and new industry partners.
- Relaunch the observership or travelling fellow programme paused during the pandemic.
- Accredit the Spine Tuesday webinar series.
- Focus on faculty development and diversification for EduWeek.

Develop a comprehensive digital content strategy together with the Programme Committee and Membership Committee, amalgamating all enduring educational resources of EUROSPINE.



## EDISC: EDUCATION IN COLLABORATIVE SPINE CARE

The EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) is an education initiative to develop and empower spine care professionals of all specialities. EDISC is open to all surgical and nonsurgical clinicians in spine care.

## Completion of the All-Virtual Cohort 2021-2022

The all-virtual EDISC format and approach were firmly established with the completion and conclusion of the 2021-2022 cohort. The seven modules were attended by an average of 36 participants, of which 16 are bursary participants. The cohort is of diverse backgrounds representing more than 15 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada, Botswana, Chile, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. Surgical and nonsurgical professions were represented in balanced proportions, encouraging interprofessional learning and exchange. The course has been well received by the participant cohort scoring an average of more than 8 out of 10 points assessed in terms of quality, relevance, scientific validity, suitability of formats and impact on the participant's clinical practice. The 7 EDISC modules are accredited by the EACCME® (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education).

## **EDISC Becomes a EUROSPINE Committee**

The EDISC became an official committee of the EUROSPINE Rehabilitation Council at the General Assembly held on October 21st 2022, in Milan, Italy. The committee will advocate for access and delivery of evidence-based spine rehabilitation with governing bodies, national and international organisations like WHO and Spine20, funding organisations, field workers and patient organisations by providing an affordable interprofessional education. The EDISC diploma will promote collaborative care using evidence-based best practices to improve patient outcomes. The virtual delivery and bursary programme for participants from low to middle-income countries of EDISC will increase the accessibility of this programme.

## **EUROSPINE Becomes a Member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance**

EUROSPINE, in recognition of the need for an integrated approach to spine care, has become a member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) of the World Health Organization. Rehabilitation plays a central role in optimising the functioning of individuals, with spine conditions and accompanying disabilities. With its novel EDISC programme, EUROSPINE is well positioned to contribute to the WRA's agenda in developing the rehabilitation workforce.

## Thank You Margareta Nordin, and Welcoming of the New EDISC Committee Members

Since 2017, Margareta Nordin has been the leading and driving force for EDISC, from conceptualising the programme to bringing together professionals of various backgrounds. She has worked tirelessly to elevate the initiative to its current level and philosophy of evidence-based, patient-centred, integrated, interprofessional and collaborative spine care. We would like to thank Margareta for her tremendous innovative efforts and achievements supporting our vision and mission to be the primary and preferred partner for all spine care issues – surgical and non-surgical.

At the same time, we welcome the leadership of Pierre Côté from 2023-2025 for the new ESISC committee. He is joined by Richard Brown, Jamiu Busari, Stephane Genevay, Annette Hylen Ranhoff, Lisa Roberts, Paulo Pereira, Eva Skillgate, Caroline Treanor and Fabio Zaina. Aligned with the EDISC philosophy, the committee is a very diverse group of different professional backgrounds and nationalities.



## **EDISC Committee Action Plan**

The new EDISC committee will develop an action plan to engage the spine care community in the EDISC programme—this will include understanding the market, developing a community of practice, promotional activities and a curriculum review. This action plan will be implemented in 2023 and beyond.

## **Our Ongoing Ambition for all Our Educational Activities**

With the ultimate goal of achieving high-quality spine care, EUROSPINE endeavours to deliver reachable education and training to the spine care community. In a landscape of heterogeneous training programmes and educational offers in spine care, the education activities offer the spine care community, including European national societies, learning outcomes and formats developed by experts representing different European countries. We aim to be the #1 continuous professional development of spine care practitioners across different cultures, languages, and contexts.

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES RESUME**

During the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, research activities at EUROSPINE were paused. The research course was finally delivered in Ljubljana last June 2022 after its postponement in March 2020. The research grants programme is now reactivated as well.

**Research Course 2022: How to Make Your Research More Relevant, Feasible and Publishable** From 4-8 June 2022, 11 highly motivated participants from 9 different countries (Croatia, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) assembled in the I city of Ljubljana, Slovenia. They participated in intense 5 days of workshops, lectures, and small group work, learning how to do relevant research in spine care. 4 core faculty from France, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States accompanied them throughout the 5 topic modules supported by the local host, 3 local clinical experts and 2 guest faculty from Belgium and Germany with specific topic expertise. The participant and faculty cohorts were highly diverse in terms of gender, nationality, and expertise. The On Foundation supported 4 scholars to attend this course. The course was a success, with new learnings and an excellent platform for future collaborations between all participants and faculty. This course has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) for a maximum of 28 European CME credits (ECMEC®s).

## The Task Force Grant Fundings

Although available funding is not yet at the same level as in the preceding years before the pandemic, EUROSPINE managed to call for and award development grants of up to €10'000. The Task Force Research members assessed and selected three projects based on relative scientific merit and budget structure. Projects on basic sciences, clinical research, and mixed laboratory and clinical research were funded.

## EUROSPINE Foundation – Potential Focus on Research Funding to be Further Assessed

Historically, EUROSPINE has funded a total of 34 grants with almost € 1,5 Mio in the last decade from 2011-2021. In the future, a closer cooperation between the Research Council and the EUROSPINE Foundation will be assessed with the goal to get access to external funding for our research projects. Moving forward, governance of the overall grant programme will include installing a monitoring system to promote the programme to potential funders and the broader spine care community.

## Welcome Carmen Vleggeert-Lankamp— The New Lead of the Research Council

EUROSPINE welcomes Carmen Vleggeert-Lankamp, a neurosurgeon and head of the Spine Research Department of Neurosurgery at Leiden University Medical Centre of the Netherlands as new chair of the research council. EUROSPINE thanks Rachid Salmi for his long-term leadership of the former Task Force research. Carmen will lead the council from 2023 to 2025 – beside further improving our grant programme she will also introduce a new blended-learning approach for our research course.

This new course format will build on the already successful format developed over the past decade. It will include interactive virtual elements and engaging in-person components. The grants programme will offer new grant types and improved processes, promoting impactful research in spine care. The Research Council will also support our Spine Tango registry activities.

## SPINE TANGO: EUROSPINE'S OFFERING FOR BEST PRACTICE QUALITY ASSURANCE

EUROSPINE'S international Spine Tango registry (established in 2002) is a dynamic tool for quality assurance and research on both surgical and conservative treatments. It aims to provide members and partners with instruments and data to monitor and improve treatment outcomes over time. By utilising comprehensive data, healthcare professionals and their partners can continuously enhance patient care through real-live data and evidence-based decisions.

## The future priorities of the registry are:

- Further tailoring the registry to better met the needs of participants and broadening its clinical user base.
- Fostering collaboration with MedTech to enable them meet their regulatory requirements and, at the same time, further develop the implant catalogue.
- Conceptual work on developing and integrating electronic Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (ePROMs) in the Swiss Implant Registry (SIRIS Spine) and Spine Tango.
- Exploring collaboration opportunities with individual national specialist societies.

## Spine Tango Enhancing Patient Care by Close Cooperation with Industry

An emphasis was and is being placed on MedTech, which must meet regular requirements and is partnering with the international Spine Tango registry. Spine Tango fosters collaboration and supports MedTech by providing an implant reporting service. At the same time, MedTech is providing Spine Tango's implant catalogue with the implant specifications. The latter is required to document medical devices and their subsequent use accurately.

## Spine Tango Steadily Improving the Concept for the Benefit of the Users

Considerable effort has been put into developing and implementing a concept for ePROMs and piloting them in the Swiss Implant Registry. It is no longer disputed that the patient's perspective is of paramount importance when assessing treatment results.

Ongoing collaborative discussions are taking place with individual national specialist societies to support and encourage them to establish or further develop national spinal treatment registration. These discussions also serve Spine Tango better to understand the need for specialist societies and individual hospitals. Spine Tango offers open-ended dialogue and has a platform for exchange, fostering a sense of involvement and cooperation between specialist societies.



Several new hospitals have signed up to participate in Spine Tango, further expanding its user base and increasing its potential for research and quality assurance in spine healthcare.

## Spine Tango Being Part of an EU Horizon Project Applying Artificial Intelligence

Spine Tango has participated a project proposal for the EU HORIZON programme, being part of a consortium of about 20 (clinical, epidemiological, statistical, and IT-technical) partner institutions across Europe. This project shall apply artificial intelligence (AI) to clinical data to improve patient treatment outcomes and rehabilitation. This exciting venture promises to advance medical practice and pave the way for better healthcare in the field of Spine and beyond.

## Welcome Sabrina Donzelli—Spine Tango's Task Force New Chair

We are delighted to introduce Sabrina Donzelli as the newly appointed Spine Tango Task Force Chair. Further, we extend our warmest wishes to Marco Telli as he takes on his new role as President and express our gratitude for his dedicated work as Past Chair of Spine Tango. We also sincerely thank Samuel Morris for his exceptional support within the Spine Tango Task Force.

Under the leadership of Sabrina Donzelli and our Senior Advisor, Emin Aghayev, Spine Tango will further strengthen its approach at the benefit for all users and partners such as the introduction of the eProms and quarterly benchmark reports to provide an even more timely reporting. Finally, we are excited to introduce new functionalities and translations into other languages, making Spine Tango accessible to a broader audience. These enhancements will facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among spine care professionals worldwide.

With these initiatives and advancements, EUROSPINE remains committed to driving innovation, advancing research and ultimately improving patient outcomes in spine care.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL: FULL COMMITMENT TO CREATE BENEFITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

The Membership Council is responsible for overseeing and managing matters related to membership. The primary function is to attract new members, retain existing members, and ensure that the organisation's membership programme aligns with its goals and objectives. Therefore, its core priority in 2022 has been recruiting and retaining EUROSPINE members.

Objectives/Plans:

- To develop and implement new value propositions that are relevant for members.
- To develop a new membership strategy with a revised subscription model to generate new members.
- To identify opportunities to expand membership categories and develop new membership benefits or services based on the evolving the needs and interests of the members.

## **EUROSPINE Membership Continues to Expand:**

We are delighted to welcome 206 new members from 42 countries in 2022, with almost fifty per cent of our latest members joining in the 'Young Member' category.

EUROSPINE continues to grow thanks to its members. We were able to offer impressive benefits, such as multidisciplinary educational opportunities, eLearning, networking events, and scientific meetings. Events and activities have been held in person again, and our annual meeting EUROSPINE 2022, in Milan was a success.



## **Membership Growth**

Many of our members demonstrated their loyalty, supporting EUROSPINE by continuing to pay their membership fees on time. However, we regretfully removed the members who have not paid their membership fees for more than two years from our membership register, which explains our halt in total year-on-year membership growth.



### **Summary New Members:**

New Members Total	Clinical (Surgical): Neurosur geon	Clinical (Surgical): Orthopae dic Surgeon	Clinical (Non- medical): Physiothe rapist	Clinical (Non- medical): Nurse	Clinical (Non- medical): Chiroprac tor	Other*
203	71	120	7	1	1	3

\* Includes Neuroradiologist, Radiologist and Spine Biomechanists





Country	New Members
Germany	34
Bangladesh	21
Switzerland	21
United Kingdom	19
Italy	10
Turkey	9
Austria	8
Netherlands	7
France	6
Ireland	5

## Top 10 Countries - New Members

### **Top 10 Countries - All Members**

Country	All Members
Germany	242
Switzerland	162
United Kingdom	155
Italy	71
Netherlands	64
Spain	59
Belgium	49
France	49
Turkey	47
Greece	46

## Introduction of a New Membership Model

Our team has been working on designing a new membership model that aims to better serve the diverse needs of our members. The new membership model reflects our dedication to fostering inclusivity, promoting collaboration, and offering relevant resources to support the professional growth of our members. We have now removed the 'corresponding member' category for members outside geographical Europe and welcome members from across the globe. We are also replacing the 'Young membership' with an Early Career Membership that is open to anyone who is within 5 years of their health care professional registration. We look forward to developing further resources to support these members in the coming year.

We have also streamlined the registration and renewal processes and introduced a 3-year membership at a reduced fee so that it is even easier to become and stay a loyal member of EUROSPINE!





## Our Way Forward and Strong Commitment to Create Long-Term Benefits for our Members

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future prospects of our society, as we continue to attract exceptional professionals and build a robust network of medical experts dedicated to advancing patient care. We look forward to welcoming our new members in our international organisation and to continue growing by your side! Together we are EUROSPINE.

## EUROPEAN SPINE SOCIETIES ADVISORY BOARD (EUSSAB): BRINGING EUROPE TOGETHER

EUROSPINE's EuSSAB provides an umbrella for all institutional members, intending to define common goals, identify challenges and develop strategies to address them in a mutual win-win situation.

Meanwhile, 25 countries, represented by 28 spine societies, have been accepted as institutional members after applying and complying with the Rules of Cooperation. Formally EuSSAB is a council with its chair representing the group on the Executive committee of EUROSPINE.

We have succeeded in bringing the national societies closer together on our platform through a face-to-face meeting in Munich, regular virtual open update calls, and a newly designed session at the Annual Meeting in Milan. In principle, all national spine societies' representatives can participate in these activities to be informed and updated on what is happening in EUROSPINE.

## EuSSAB's Interactive Best Papers Competition at Annual Meeting in Milan

For the third time, the EuSSAB committee organised a EuSSAB session at the end of the Pre-Day Course at the Annual Meeting in Milan, with the participation of EuSSAB members. For the first time, we introduced a new format: An Interactive Best Papers Competition. All National Societies submitted their best article and presented it during the session. The best-voted article received an award. The session ended with a cozy cocktail reception and a fruitful opportunity to expand the network. The format was very well received, so as a result, it will continue in the future. The awardwinning session moves onwards within the Annual Meeting in Frankfurt from a pre-day event to a full-grown programme session.

## Other important EuSSAB activities: SWOT 2.0 Analysis Follow-up Report and THEMIS project

The first EuSSAB (SWOT analysis) had a response rate of 100%. It provided for the first time in the history of EUROSPINE a wide range of information related to potential issues and challenges that our institutional members (national societies) are confronted with. The planned follow-up SWOT has been completed in 2022 however less information has been provided. Nevertheless, we will stick to our efforts to collect via these SWOT analyses appropriate information to define and create standard solutions to specific problems faced by all National Societies.

The THEMIS study is still an ongoing high-priority project to analyse possible under-represented groups and to promote diversity and inclusivity in European spine societies.

Last but not least, EuSSAB fulfils every year its role as an open platform, always accessible for EUROSPINE and for the EuSSAB institutional and associated members. It supports all task forces and committees like Spine Tango, Brain and Spine journal, Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE), Membership, EduCom and Programme Committees. It is and will remain an indispensable link between all the societies and committees.



## Strong Need: Proactive Involvement from EuSSAB Members

Despite the unparalleled initiatives and opportunities offered by EUROSPINE's EuSSAB within Europe, communication and dissemination of information within the National Spine Societies do not seem to work optimally; this issue still needs further improvement. The information is not always appropriately shared and communicated with the boards of the national spine societies.

At the national level, our members have been proactive. The proactive involvement of our members is essential to address and resolve the most pressing issues facing the spine community. We aim for all National Societies to make the most of all our benefits, such as using our registry and getting easy and efficient access and support for all other EUROSPINE activities. National Societies will also have the opportunity to raise key issues they must address at the national level. If there is any way that EUROSPINE can support them, we will certainly do so.

However, such an approach can only work if the National Societies ensure that the representative they send to our virtual and face-to-face meetings has the necessary skills and functions in their organisation to disseminate the messages brought back from these meetings.

We will continue to discuss this at our forthcoming meetings to make rapid and efficient progress. Our EuSSAB Council will continue to fulfil its role as a platform within EUROSPINE, hosting all institutional and national spine society members.





## EUROSPINE'S REHABILITATION COUNCIL: A KEY ELEMENT FOR A FULLY AND TRUE INTEGRATED APPROACH IN SPINE CARE

Aligned with the mission of bringing together all spine-related stakeholders across disciplines, professions, cultures, and countries, EUROSPINE strengthens its focus on rehabilitation through its Rehabilitation Council (chaired by Everard Munting). EUROSPINE recognises the urgency to improve the function, life, and well-being of those experiencing spine disorders. EUROSPINE builds strong links with the World Health Organization and Spine20 and engages in advocacy activities.

## Spine20: 2022 Summit in Bali, Indonesia

Spine20 is a global advocacy group promoting evidence-based spine care linked to the G20 annual summits. EUROSPINE and the North American Spine Society, the German Spine Society and the Saudi Spine Society founded this group in 2019. Spine20 aims to serve as a high-level resource for governments to optimise prevention, access to care, education, and research opportunities to mitigate spine injuries and disorders. In 2022, EUROSPINE actively participated in the summit and published a public policy recommendations document focusing on facilitating access to systems prioritising value-based care delivered by a competent healthcare workforce. The recommendations aim to reduce disability and improve the productivity of the G20 nations. At the third Spine20 summit last 4-5 August 2022 in Bali, Indonesia, 17 associations endorsed the recommendations.

## World Rehabilitation Alliance of the World Health Organization Membership

The World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) is a WHO global network of stakeholders whose mission is to support the implementation of the <u>Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative</u> of the World Health Organization through advocacy activities. This alliance of stakeholders has objectives of conducting evidence-based advocacy activities that increase support, raise awareness on rehabilitation, and strengthen networking and knowledge sharing within the rehabilitation sector. In November 2022, EUROSPINE became a member of this alliance and will contribute to raising the profile of rehabilitation at the global, regional, national, and local levels by supporting the WHO.

## Ambition to Provide Affordable, Interprofessional, and Collaborative Education

The Rehabilitation Council aims to provide affordable, interprofessional, and collaborative education to all involved in the process of spine rehabilitation through EDISC and Spine Tuesday webinars. With Patient Line, the council will inform patients with spine disorders and disabilities about evidenced-based rehabilitation. The council will promote a common language among all spine care providers. Advocacy activities will continue for access and delivery of evidence-based spine rehabilitation with governing bodies, national and international organisations like WHO, funding organisations, field workers, and patient organisations.

For achieving the ambitious goals, the Rehabilitation Council will strongly cooperate with external organisations (Spine 20, WHO and others) as well as with all EUROSPINE internal councils to ensure that rehabilitation basics and existing pathways are included in all the relevant EUROSPINE (educational) programmes.



## The Rehabilitation Council's Action Plan

The Rehabilitation Council will continue to recruit core members who are active and with diverse representation. It will continue its advocacy activities with the WHO and Spine20. The council will inform and involve various committees of its objectives and initiatives. An editorial will be published in 2023 regarding the council's inclusive initiatives.

The Rehabilitation Council will work towards creating the foundations for an evidenced-based rehabilitation proposal to the spine patient based on their underlying condition and not on the practitioner's background that they happen to consult. This integrated approach will be advocated as the need for a multidisciplinary spine care approach becomes evident to more spine care providers.

## EMPOWERING PATIENTS WORLDWIDE: PATIENT LINE'S MILESTONES AND WAY FORWARD

PatientLine is a sub-committee of EUROSPINE. It is an integral part of EUROSPINE's activities. PatientLine strives to educate the public on all matters concerning spinal conditions, preventive care, and treatments.

## Clear Objectives for 2022 within Budget:

- Embrace the diverse and dynamic nature of online presence and communication channels
- Sustain financial stability while maintaining a continuous online presence
- To integrate and update website content into the overall EUROSPINE website in 2023.

## **Patient Line Specific Achievements:**

- First-ever Patient Line symposium during EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in October on critical topic of patient-tailored consent.
- Regular committee meetings, introduced one new committee member
- Publications: three newsletters, four news articles leveraging content from spine care webinars, among others.
- 60 #PatientLineThursday posts
- Significant budget optimisation by continue to leverage existing expert content







## Patient Line Receives Great Recognition by Patients across different languages and geographies, Proven by Constantly Increasing Hits on the Website

The visitor base of our Patient Line website grew again by over 24 percent in 2022, continuing to provide up-to-date expert-written information to patients in 14 languages, with English and German leading the way. It is and will remain our core goal to keep our patients updated on core topics that are relevant to them, as well as increase our reach by continuing to integrate the website into the overall EUROSPINE website, and by initiatives such as being present at the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting.

## BRAIN AND SPINE: STEADY AND FAST PROGRESS MADE

On 10 April 2021, EUROSPINE, EANS, and Elsevier signed a contract to establish Brain and Spine, a new online, open-access scientific journal. it is now the official journal of EUROSPINE and EANS exclusively owned (50 /50) by the two scientific societies.

2021 was a very successful year for Brain and Spine. We established the "Editorial Manager" which is the software programme that runs the journal and also the Brain and Spine website (<u>www.sciencedirect.com/journal/brain-and-spine</u>). After the election of the two Editors-in-Chief (Frank Kandziora and Wilco Peul) by the Executive Committees of EUROSPINE and EANS, an outstanding editorial board of 36 well-known scientists covering multiple disciplines was established.

Our first Editorial was published on 19 July 2021, and the first original scientific article was online on 6 August 2021. Further, the abstracts of the annual meetings of EUROSPINE and EANS were published on 30 September. From the 94 submissions we received in 2021, we accepted 30 papers for publication and published 2 editorials and 14 original articles online. As a result, after already 4 months, we were indexed in the "Directory of Open Access Journals" on 3 December 2021.

## Brain and Spine Achievements in 2022: Indexation and Submissions

The most outstanding achievement in 2022 was our indexation in PubMed Central (PMC) [1]. After applying for indexation on 10 March (7 months after we had the first paper online), we finally received PMC acceptance on 4 October. Further, we have also been indexed in Google Scholar on 10 May.



A Reviewer of the Year Award [2] was established because we firmly believe that reviewers are extremely important for a high-class scientific journal. Our first Reviewers of the (academic) Year 2021/2022 were Jörg Franke, Magdeburg, Germany, for EUROSPINE and Michael Bruneau, Brussels, Belgium, for EANS. The Reviewer of the Year will be awarded yearlyin the future.

Additionally, we established a concept for Special Topic Issues (STI) [3]. Our first STI dealt with "Global and Humanitarian Neurosurgery" and was a big success attracting 15 original papers. The 3 supplements we published included the abstracts of the EUROSPINE and EANS annual meetings and the abstract highlights of the Swiss Spine Society meeting.

In 2022, Brain and Spine received 271 submissions of scientific papers, 146 dealing with the brain and 125 with spine topics. We accepted 102 high-quality papers (59 brain / 43 spine) but also had to reject 104 (46 brain / 58 spine). Further, we published 8 editorials. One of them dealing with "Putin's Ukraine war" is atypical for a scientific journal but worth reading [4].

## Brain and Spine: Prospects For 2023 – Waive All APC Charges for Members

Although we already applied for indexation in the Emerging Sources Citation Index and the Web of Science on 6 April 2022, we expect to be listed not earlier than spring 2023 because of the extensive handling times of Clarivate Analytics. Further, we hope to receive indexation in SCOPUS, which is another important citation database, early in 2023.

Additionally, we plan to establish a concept for the association of national Spine and neurosurgical societies to contribute to the journal as affiliated societies. This is another way for EUROSPINE and EANS as umbrella organisations to foster the exchange and cooperation between the national scientific societies.

Finally, our most important goal for 2023 is to waive all Article-Processing Charges (APC) for all EUROSPINE and EANS members because we understand that this is an important asset for our members, and we want to strengthen our membership service.

## Brain and Spine: Further Support from EUROSPINE and EANS Community

Although the journal had a very successful start so far, we must get the support the ongoing of our complete EUROSPINE and EANS community. Only with our membership's full support will we be able to secure the future of a high-class scientific Brain and Spine journal. So please consider submitting your excellent scientific papers to our journal. If you have any questions or want to become part of Brain and Spine, maybe as an editorial board member or as a reviewer, please contact us.

Explore the Brain and Spine Journal. Look us up on the internet, follow us on social media, or contact us at bas@elsevier.com.

## Literature:

1. F. Kandziora, T. Blattert, A. K. Demetriades W. Peul: Brain and Spine: Our journal is now indexed in PubMed Central. Brain Spine. 2022 November 1st;2:101688. doi: 10.1016/j.bas.2022.101688. eCollection 2022

2. F. Kandziora, W. Peul: Reviewing is fun. The Reviewer of the Year Award of Brain and Spine journal. Brain Spine. 2022 August 12th;2:100931. doi: 10.1016/j.bas.2022.100931. eCollection 2022.

3. F. Kandziora, W. Peul: Why you should publish in a special topic issue of the Brain and Spine journal. Brain Spine. 2023 Nov 1;3: eCollection 2023

4. T. Blattert, A. K. Demetriades, F. Kandziora, W. Peul: EUROSPINE and EANS statement about Putin's Ukraine war. Brain Spine. 2022 March 15th;2:100880. doi: 10.1016/j.bas.2022.100880. eCollection 2022.



## TREASURER'S STATEMENT

This Treasury Report covers the 2022 fiscal year. It has been released before the General Assembly 2023 to allow you adequate time to review the figures beforehand.

The 2022 financial year was the first full recovery year after the Covid 19 pandemic. EUROSPINE's financial situation has been strongly improved based on an excellent financial result of our 2022 Annual Meeting in Milan and the good outcome of our Education Week in Strasbourg.

The final profit of the year was  $\notin$  246,814 (2021:  $\notin$  54,401), which is another step forward to reestablish the equity and liquidity position we had before the pandemic.

## Recovery of Revenues Not Only from the Annual Meeting and Educational Activities

The strong recovery of the net revenues (increase from  $\leq$  1,692,111 to  $\leq$  2,478,930) was not only due to the excellent profits from the Annual Meeting in Milan and the Education Week as an increasing contribution from our Spine Tango-related earnings also drove it.

Furthermore, the income from Membership Fees improved slightly from the low 2021 level ( $\leq$ 110,137) to  $\leq$  121,626 - a level that is not yet fully satisfactory. Still, with all the membership benefit-creating actions, we are confident to get back to the pre-pandemic levels.

## Strong Profit of € 246,814 – Clearly Above Break-Even Budget Despite Increasing Cost

The budget 2022 was originally planned to be break-even (profit:  $\leq$  19,355) but the much higher revenues not only supported a stronger profit of  $\leq$  246,814 but also enabled us to initiate respective finalising some important projects such as the new data management system and the new website.

The cost increases were due to organising our EduWeek as an onsite event at IRCAD in Strasburg, which strongly impacted our "costs for other core activities" (increase from  $\in$  551,832 to  $\in$  793,412). Furthermore, we partly took back some tough cost control measures such as short-term work, discounts from providers and not allowing travel and personal meetings.

In addition, we started a project to re-activate our Foundation to potentially get additional funding for our research projects. For the pre-phase of this project, we assigned almost Euro 60'000. The costs for the other projects – which include Patient Line, Journal, strategy review, and international cooperation remained on the 2021 level.

The personnel expenses increased from € 691,078 to 840,421, partly due to terminating the shortterm work and paying back some of the provider discounts given during the pandemic but also related to hiring additional staff. With these hirings, we added strongly needed management capabilities and specific needed competencies for further strengthening especially our meeting activities and operational set-up. The increased personnel expenses can be expected to further reduce our dependence on external providers - which means less cost for external providers in the long run.

We have already realised some of these benefits by introducing a new modern website, launching a new data management project for streamlining our internal processes, and having a very successful Annual Meeting in Milan. All of that has been strongly impacted by our new team, led by Juergen Meier as new director of meetings and operations. The other operating expenses were  $\notin$  400,734 clearly below the 2021 level ( $\notin$  557,152) which was due to the fact that the 2021 figure included some provisions for IT-related work that had to be postponed because of the pandemic. A core part of these provisions has been used in 2022 for the new website project.



The extraordinary position in 2022 of  $\notin$  71,309 was related to the release of provisions made in 2021 but neither needed in 2022 nor in the future. The 2021 extraordinary item was the state support provided for managing the pandemic.

## Further Stabilising Impact of Solid Profit on Balance Sheet

Our cash and liquidity position has slightly strengthened despite the number in the Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2022 is clearly with  $\in$  1,092,251 clearly lower than the one from 2021 ( $\in$  1,532,334). The reason for that is simple the major profit from the AM in Milan has not been transferred to our account before year end. This can be seen in the position "accrued income from 3rd parties". The profit of  $\in$  246,814 for the year clearly increased our equity from  $\in$  833,123 to  $\in$  1,079,937.833. It will be our remaining goal to further strengthen our equity position, getting back to a prepandemic level of around  $\in$  1,500,000.

## Outlook for 2023

As we move into 2023 and beyond, the world seems to recover from the pandemic, as people can travel and meet again. Our financial position is clearly stronger than a year ago, but the challenges of managing the future remain.

Even among Non-Profit Organisations, competition is increasing. Sponsorship money is more limited, and participants in courses and meetings are carefully selecting where they go and spend their time and money on registration fees.

That's why it is so important for EUROSPINE to focus on activities where they can ensure best practices and differentiate what others do. This approach, however, means that we have to focus and only offer the services that we can do best.

Our members are a crucial part of our way forward. We will ensure to constantly optimise our membership benefits, specifically addressing young career members' needs. At the same time, it will be of extreme importance that we get the total commitment of our members, which means that they not only pay for their membership but also are available to take over responsibilities for the many available officer positions within EUROSPINE.

You can be assured that our upcoming 2023 Annual Meeting in Frankfurt will be another outstanding event providing high-quality learning content in an outstanding atmosphere, creating an unforgettable experience. This will also be true for all the other activities that are planned for 2023, such as Education Week and the EUROSPINE & EANS Spring Summit are planned for the first time in March 2023 in Budapest.

As Treasurer and Delegate of the ExCom EUROSPINE, we are proud of the hard work put in by the EUROSPINE ExCom, Councils and Committees, and staff to successfully manage the return to normal profitability after the tough pandemic years. We are also especially grateful for the ongoing support from many of our industry partners, without which all our success would not be possible.

Our Executive Committee (ExCom) remains fully committed to our mission and vision, delivering best practice services to our members and stakeholders at a reasonable cost. Please support us to continue our successful way forward in providing best-practice spine care within and beyond Europe.



# VON FLUE AG

6302 Zug Baarerstrasse 95 Telefon 041 726 78 00 Telefax 041 726 78 30 office@vonflue.ch Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination to the General Meeting of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe 8610 Uster

Zug, August 8, 2023

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe for the year ended December 31, 2022.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the articles of association.

We draw to your attention that the financial statements have not been submitted to the Annual General Assembly within six month after year end as stipulated by Art. 699 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

TREUHAND VON FLÜE AG

H.-P. von Flüe lic.oec. HSG licensed audit expert

G Biotti auditor in charge licensed audit expert

Enclosures: - Financial Statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes)

EXPERTsuisse Certified Company



Balance sheet as of 31 December (in EUR)

Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents Trade accounts receivables		1 092 251	1 532 644
due from third parties		30 122	12 352
Other short-term receivables		15 600	760
Prepaid expenses	2.1	10 392	40 795
Accrued income			
due from third parties		676 339	125 406
due from members		7 175	11 390
Total current assets		1 831 879	1 723 347
TOTAL ASSETS		1 831 879	1 723 347
LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY			
Short-term liabilities			
Trade accounts payables		133 477	111 628
Other short-term liabilities		16 075	13 860
Prepayments from members		89 690	20 595
Prepayments for education	2.1	0	7 000
Accrued expenses		415 480	627 365
Total short-term liabilities		654 722	780 448
Long-term liabilities			
Long-term interest-bearing liabilities			
due to third parties	3.4	97 220	109 776
Total long-term liabilities		97 220	109 776
Total liabilities		751 942	890 224
Society's equity			
Society capital		833 123	778 722
Profit for the year		246 814	54 401
Total society's equity		1 079 937	833 123
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY		1 831 879	1 723 347



## Income statement for the year ended 31 December (in EUR)

	Notes	2022	2021
Memberfees		121 626	110 137
Profit annual meeting & revenues spring meeting	4.1/4.2	1 400 860	749 570
Revenues other core activities		956 444	832 404
Total net revenue		2 478 930	1 692 111
Meeting related costs		( 12 130)	(79 999)
Costs for other core activities		( 793 411)	( 551 832)
Total core activity related expenses		( 805 541)	( 631 831)
Foundation		( 59 895)	(5827)
Other projects		(135 036)	(154 870)
International cooperations		( 17 417)	201
Total specific project related expenses		( 212 348)	( 160 496)
Gross profit		1 461 041	899 784
Personnel expenses	3.1	( 840 421)	( 691 078)
Comitee expenses		(37 912)	(9532)
Marketing / Office / Administration expenses		(205 694)	(202 514)
IT expenses		(157 128)	(345 106)
Total other operating expenses		( 400 734)	( 557 152)
Operating result		219 886	( 348 446)
Financial expenses		(9166)	(10 959)
Currency exchange expenses realised		(17 813)	(3276)
Currency exchange expenses unrealised		( 17 402)	5 206
Total financial income and expenses		( 44 381)	(9029)
Extraordinary or prior periods income and expenses	3.4 / 4.3	71 309	411 876
Profit for the year		246 814	54 401



## Notes to the financial statements 2022 (in EUR)

#### 1. General information

These financial statements were prepared according to the principles of the Swiss Law on Accounting and Financial Reporting (Art. 957 - 962 Swiss Code of Obligations).

The structure of the income statement has been adjusted in the 2022 financial statements. The presentation of the previous year has been adjusted to the new structure.

#### 1.1 Currency and exchange rates

The functional currency of the Company is Euro, as it is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. The reporting currency of the Company is Euro.

In preparing the financial statements of the Company, transactions in currencies other than the Company's functional currency are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions.

#### 2. Key accounting and valuation principles

The main accounting and valuation principles used, which are not already specified by the Code of Obligations, are described as follows:

#### 2.1 Prepayments

Prepayments have been made and received for meetings and education activities in the following years.

#### 3. Additional information

## 3.1 Number of full-time equivalents

The annual average number of full-time equivalents for the reporting year, as well as the previous year, did not exceed 10.

#### 3.2 Pension scheme liabilities

In 2022 there are liabilities towards the pension scheme of EUR 23 (previous year: EUR 3).



## Notes to the financial statements 2022 (in EUR)

#### 3.3 Tax exemption

The exemption from income and capital taxes was approved by the Cantonal Tax Office Zurich on 31 July 2008. EuroSpine is a non-profit organisation.

#### 3.4 Corona Pandemic

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to be a pandemic in recognition of its rapid spread across the globe. Many governments haven taken increasingly stringent steps to help contain or delay the spread of the virus. The constant increase in economic uncertainty which is, for example, evidenced by more volatile asset prices and currency exchange rates had mainly an impact for the FY 2021.

The society has implemented short-term work for its employees in Switzerland in 2021 and other cost-cutting measures. Additionally the society has received a non-refundable compensation of CHF 480'000 and a loan of CHF 120'000 in 2021 from Canton of Zurich, of which CHF 24'000 was repaid in 2022.

The pre-registration for short-time work has been approved by the Canton of Zurich. From January-October 2021, compensation of EUR 41'105 was accrued. These are booked as an expense reduction in personnel expenses.

The financial year 2022 finally brought a slow but steady recovery getting back to normal business terms. As our annual meeting took place only in October most of the national restrictions to travel and meet were given up and therefore we had a very strong attendance at our major event which strongly supported the return to a solid profit.

#### 3.5 Significant events after the balance sheet date

There are no significant events after the balance sheet date which could impact the book value of the assets or liabilities or which should be disclosed here.



## **EUROSPINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022 I MINUTES**

## Members only/ Physical meeting

## Thursday, 20 October 2021, 17:20-18:40h

#### Meeting Venue: Room Space 1+2

MiCo - Milan Convention Center, Piazzale Carlo Magno 1, 20149 Milano, Italy

### The GA was legally constituted in accordance with the Statutes and Swiss law.

### 48 members present.

## 1. Welcome and Approval of the last minutes

Christoph Siepe, Secretary EUROSPINE: GA minutes: 7 October 2021 Hybrid Meeting - approved

## 2. Managing the Pandemic

Everard Munting, Past President EUROSPINE and Member of the Executive Committee

#### COVID-19 continues to have lasting financial implications

- 2021 remained challenging specially to manage the tight financial situation
- The support of the Swiss state helped us to achieve a slightly positive result
- Member loyalty became a very important issue experiencing some delays in fee payments
- At the same time we must improve our member data system still not working optimally

## The ExCom has further mitigated the negative impact of COVID-19 on EUROSPINE

- Ongoing flexibility in all our offerings / activities to cope with all the fast changing situations
- Adapt key objectives / ensure solid income and high efficiency for all our four core activities

#### 3. Current status / Major achievements 2021/2022

Thomas Blattert, President EUROSPINE and Member of the Executive Committee

#### Presidential Goals:

- 1. Financial Recovery
- 2. Membership & EuSSAB
- 3. Education
- 4. Stakeholders
- 5. Social Media

#### Strategy Review 2022

After almost 3 years of mainly managing the pandemic a Strategy Review was done this year with the following results:

- The need to further ensure a solid liquidity reserve and to recover equity will impact our activities: All our activities and projects must be based on cost/benefit considerations
- Re-assessment of Vision & Mission

### **Our Vision**

To be the driving force and the primary and preferred partner in Europe <u>and beyond</u> for all spinal care issues.

#### **Our Mission**

#### Optimise patient care and prevention of spinal disorders

Provide and support "best practice" life-long learning, research <u>and quality assurance</u> Bring together all spine-related European stakeholders across disciplines, cultures and countries



Re-confirmation to remain fully committed to our 4 core activities and the other strategic priorities

For details see Annual Report.

## 4. Society business financials: final figures 2021 / budget 2023

Beat Leimbacher, Delegate / Zdenek Klezl, Treasurer

Overview cost / Income development 2013 - 2021



## Overview profit / loss (for details see Annual Report)

	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021
	01.01.2021	01.01.2021
	- 31.12.2021	- 31.12.2021
Total revenue	1'554'000	1'692'111
Total expenses	2'104'600	1'637'710
Annual profit / (loss)	-550'600	54'401

#### **Assets and Liabilities and Equity**

Balance sheet as of 31 December (in EUR)

	2021	2020
ASSETS		2
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1 532 644	1 088 228
Other current assets	190 703	120 973
Total current assets	1 723 347	1 209 201
TOTAL ASSETS	1 723 347	1 209 201
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	31 December 2021	
Short-term liabilities	780 448	430 479
Total short-term liabilities	780 448	430 479
Long-term liabilities	109 776	0
Total long-term liabilities	109 776	0
Total liabilities	890 224	430 479
Society's equity		
Society capital	778 722	1 513 612
Profit for the year	54 401	( 734 890
Total society's equity	833 123	778 722
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY	1 723 347	1 209 201

GA approved the financial statements 2021 as shown above. 27



## Re-Election of the auditors for 2023

6302 Zug Baurerstrasse 95 Telefon 041 726 78 00 Telefox 041 726 78 30 office@vonflue.ch	Report of the statutory auditors on the limited statutory examination to the General Meeting of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe 8610 Uster
	Zug, August 16, 2022
and notes) of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of E	
	of the board of the society. Our responsibility is to a financial statements. We confirm that we meet the ulated by Swiss law.
identify material misstatements in the financial s primarily of inquiries of company personnel and company documents as considered necessary in operational processes and the internal control sy	and perform a limited statutory examination to tatements. A limited statutory examination consists analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of the circumstances. However, the testing of
Based on our limited statutory examination, not believe that the financial statements do not com incorporation.	hing has come to our attention that causes us to ply with Swiss law and the society's articles of
We draw to your attention that the financial stat General Assembly within six month after year en Obligations.	
TREUHAND VON FLÜE AG	- Biother in charge

## Re-Election of the auditors for 2023: - approved

Carton Correction Company



## Budget 2023

REVENUE	2023	audited 2021
Memberfees	120 000	110 137
Profit Spring Meeting EUROSPINE	90 500	7 300
Profit Annual Meeting (PCO)	1 300 000	742 270
Education Week	373 000	360 371
Hybrid Education Week	0	0
EDISC	20 000	21 133
Education other	10 000	18 172
Income spine Tango	275 800	412 728
TFR courses	10 000	0
Spine Centres of Excellence	0	15 000
IncomeJournals	9 200	5 000
Total Revenue	2 208 500	1 692 111

EXPENSES	<u>2023</u>	audited 2021
Meetings	120 500	79 999
Education	311 000	27 779
Research / Reactivation ISF	150 000	111 002
Specific Projects/Task Forces		
Registries (Spine Tango)	271 900	499 054
Others	62 500	74 694
EUROSPINE Officers and ExCom Event	65 000	0
Committees	70 000	9 331
Operating expenses		
Personnel	825 000	691 078
Accounting and Audit	80 000	92 400
Website including Amfort / Data management	100 000	289 000
Others	156 500	166 222
Financial expenses	10 000	( 402 849)
Total Expenses	2 222 400	1 637 710
Annual profit / (loss)	( 13 900)	54 401
	2023	audited 2021
Total revenue	2 208 500	1 692 111
Total expenses	2 222 400	1 637 710
Annual profit / (loss)	( 13 900)	54 401

Budget 2023: approved as presented above.



#### 5. Approvals new Membership Model / Categories

Christoph Siepe, Secretary

Christoph Siepe explains why EUROSPINE needs a new membership model:



#### Christoph Siepe shows the new membership model:

EUROSPINEdigital	EUROSPINEstandard	EUROSPINEpremium	EUROSPINEfellow
Access to EUROSPINEdigital resource	All benefits EUROSPINEdigital	All benefits EUROSPINEdigital	All benefits EUROSPINEpremium
library	Access to exclusive Members-only events	Access to exclusive Members-only	Free Registration for Annual Meeting,
Access to exclusive virtual events	& facilities	events & facilities	Spring Speciality Meeting, eduweek,
networking opportunities with peers	Reduced fees for Annual Meeting	Reduced fees for Annual Meeting (	
ccess to (CME accredited) online courses	(discount early fee), Spring Speciality Meeting & eduweek	discount early fee and regular fee), Spring Speciality Meeting & eduweek	
	50% discount publication fee brain & spine journal	50% discount publication fee brain & spine journal	
	Access to research grants	Access to research grants	
	full voting rights at GA	full voting rights at GA	
	active participation in committees and task forces	active participation in committees and task forces	
tbd	140 € / year	375 € / 3 years	Free
NEW CATEGORY	Active members Corresponding members Young members (active / corresponding)* Senior Members**	Active members 3 years Corresponding members 3 years	Honorary Members EUROSPINE Past Presidents

\*Senior Members: current active senior members will be transferred to the EUROSPINEstandard 1-year membership with a 30% discount on the membership fee

Question Haluk Berk: Is there no senior member category anymore? Answer Christoph Siepe: correct. But the existing senior members will be EUROSPINEstandard members without paying the yearly fee.

We ask for approval:

Changes to the Membership model by amending (i) the Membership Categories; and (ii) amending Article 16 to authorize the Executive Committee to align the Membership Fees to the new Membership Categories.

Changes to membership categories: approved as presented above.



## 6. NOMINATIONS

Everard Munting, Chair Nomination Committee

The following nominations were supported by the EUROSPINE Executive committee and are now ratified and approved:

## **Executive Committee:**

Ratified: Marco Teli, Italy – Incoming President Ahmet Alanay, Turkey – Incoming Vice President

Existing Excom members (no specific actions by GA needed) Christoph Siepe, Germany – Secretary Lisa Roberts, United Kingdom – Membership Council Javier Pizones, Spain – Meeting Council Johan Van Lerbeirghe, Belgium – EuSSAB Council

## new members: Approved

Dominique R. Rothenfluh, Switzerland – President-Elect Yann-Philippe Charles, France – Treasurer Carmen Vleggeert-Lankamp, Netherlands – Research Council Everard Munting, Belgium – Rehabilitation Council Paulo Miguel Pereira, Portugal – Education Committee Council

ExCom: unanimous, no abstains - ratified and approved

#### **Committee and Task Forces Members:**

## **Education Committee**

Florian Ringel, Germany Chrishan Takar, United Kingdom Bertrand Debono, France Jean Charles Le Huec, France Maximo Alberto Diez, Portugal Stacey Darwish, United Kingdom Paolo C. Coutinho, Portugal

## **Programme Committee**

Susana Nunez, Spain Konstantinos A. Starantzis, Greece Friederike Schömig, Germany

## **Membership Committee**

Matti Scholtz, Germany (prolonged) Karsten Wiechert, Germany Stephane Genevay, Switzerland

## **Patient Line Committee**

Angelo Fragakis, United Kingdom



Peter Ferlic, Austria (prolonged)

Spine Tango TF Enrico Galazzi, Italy

#### **EuSSAB** Committee

Jarrko Halme, Finland (prolonged) Naffis Arwanjalla, United Kingdom

#### **TFR Grants Review Members**

Nadege Lemeunier, France Tamar Pincus, United Kingdom

## **Nomination Committee**

Matthias Pumberger, Germany Martin Gehrchen, Denmark Alberto Diaz Ulloa, Spain

## 7. Miscellaneous and any other business

Upcoming important dates:

EDISC Courses 2023 20 January- 5 November Virtual

Officers Days 2023 24 – 26 March Naples, Italy

EUROSPINE EANS SPRING SUMMIT 2023 31 March – 1 April Budapest, Hungary

EduWeek 2023 26-28 June Strasbourg, France

EUROSPINE 2023 4-6 October Frankfurt, Germany

Question Ferran Pellisé Urquiza related to potential farewell for Judith Reichert as former EUROSPINE director of administration. Thomas Blattert answered that Judith's decision to terminate the contract was communicated to all members and partners combined with a strong thank you for all the support provided



over the years. Furthermore, a formal farewell speech was given at the last program committee she attended. Our invitation to join us in Milan for a planned farewell ceremony on the podium she decided to decline.

Question Derek Cawley: During these times sustainability requests some fast actions and how does EUROSPINE deal with that. Christoph Siepe answered that Executive Committee is prepared to take some actions on sustainability and all kind of proposals coming from any members are very welcome.

## 8. Personal Goals & Outlook 2023

Incoming President, Marco Teli

## Personal Goals President 2022/2023

- 1. Attract more young, new professionals surgeons and non-surgeons
- 2. Enable a closer and faster communication through digital initiatives
- 3. Partner with the Spine Community beyond EUROPE
- 4. Foster diversity and inclusion

## Outlook 2023:

- 5. Stick to our strategy and to our core activities
- 6. Hold the first ever Officers Event to discuss and shape our strategy with all EUROSPINE Officers
- 7. Reactivation of the ESF
- 8. Improve our membership model and become even more attractive as a member society

20 October 2022

Christoph Siepe, EUROSPINE Secretary Beat Leimbacher, EUROSPINE Delegate of the Executive Committee Jürgen Meier, EUROSPINE Director Meetings & Operations





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# **Addendum: List of New Members**

Aavikko A Abbas C Aboutaleb A Abreu F Abul K	Anni Ghayur	CITY Lahti Birmingham	COUNTRY Finland
Abbas C Aboutaleb A Abreu F Abul k	Ghayur		
Aboutaleb A Abreu F Abul K			United Kingdom
Abreu F Abul k			Germany
Abul K	Pedro	Faro	Portugal
			Turkey
			Malta
Ahsan			Bangladesh
			Bangladesh
			Bangladesh
		Dhaka	Bangladesh
Alamdar N	Mohammad Ghaith	Ganderkesee	Germany
Al-Ani A	Asef	Slough	United Kingdom
Albers		Bern	Switzerland
Ali	Md. Yousuf	Dhaka	Bangladesh
Ansari N		Barabanki	India
		Bern	Switzerland
		Frankfurt	Germany
Attia	Hassan	Gunzenhausen	Germany
Auron	Maria		Finland
Aurouer N	Nicolas	Mérignac	France
Ayman N	Mohammed	Munich	Germany
Baert N	Matthieu	Sint-Truiden	Belgium
Balandziunas R	Rimvydas	Siauliai	Lithuania
		Chania	Greece
Baloch N	Mohammed Sarfraz	Bottrop	Germany
Baram A	Amin Bakhtyar	Glostrup	Denmark
·		Zurich	Switzerland
Bica C	Dorin	Bucharest	Romania
Billah N	Muhammad Baqi	Sylhet	Bangladesh
Bleeck J	Joachim	Magdeburg	Germany
Bozduman Ö	Ömer	Samsun	Turkey
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Caelers	Inge	Maastricht	Netherlands
Carleton-Bland	Nick	Liverpool	United Kingdom
Chevillotte T	Thomas	Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon	France
Ciornei Irimie	Laura	Bad Neustadt an der Saale	Germany
Cobanoglu	Mutlu	İzmir	Turkey
Constantoyannis	Constantine	Patras	Greece
Coşkun H	Hüseyin Sina	Samsun	Turkey
Costa F	Francesco	Milano	Italy
Cristian Sebastian	Leuce	Timisoara	Romania
Cristino	Nuno	Setúbal	Portugal
Darwish	Nagy	Holywood	United Kingdom
Decruz J	Joshua	Singapore	Singapore
Dhatt S	Sarvdeep	Mohali	India
Diaz	Luis	Mexico City	Mexico
Dincer R	Recep	Isparta	Turkey
Dolaş	İlyas	lstanbul	Turkey
Dove	Lucy	Oxford	United Kingdom



FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	СІТҮ	COUNTRY
Dubey	Rahul	Stoke on Trent	United Kingdom
Dusoi		Waldshut-Tiengen	Germany
El Hachache	Bilal	Clichy	France
Elgohary		Duisburg	Germany
Elsayed		Dubai	United Arab Emirates
Endler	Peter	Lidingo	Sweden
Fikkers	Joost	Amsterdam	Netherlands
G	Amrit	Cuttack	India
Gatt	Dan	Sheffield	United Kingdom
Geri	Gabor	Prague	Czech Republic
Goetzen	Michael	Innsbruck	Austria
Goga	Cristina	Fribourg	Switzerland
Grabmeier	Georg	Vienna	Austria
Guatta	Ramona	Massagno	Switzerland
Gubian	Arthur	Mannheim	Germany
Haapaniemi	Matti	Kaarina	Finland
Hamdan	Mohammad	Frankfurt am Main	Germany
Hammad	Wael	Khamis Mushit	Saudi Arabia
Hannan	Mohammad Abdul	Sylhet	Bangladesh
Haritonov	Dimitar	Pleven	Bulgaria
Hashmi	Imtiaz	Karachi	Pakistan
Heil	Philipp	Viersen	Germany
Helal	Farid	Gharbia	Egypt
Heuer	Annika	Hamburg	Germany
Но	Chi Long	Singapore	Singapore
Holland	Jeremy	Greater Manchester	United Kingdom
Hordijk	Jacob	Kleve	Germany
Hossain	Md. Alamgir	Dhaka	Bangladesh
Hossen	Monaim	Dhaka	Bangladesh
lliev	Bogdan	Plauen	Germany
lorio	Carlo	Rome	Italy
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lshchenko	Dmytro	Kyiv	Ukraine
Islam	Md Anowarul	Dhaka	Bangladesh
Islam	Mohammad Saiful	Mymensingh	Bangladesh
Jacob	Alina	Zurich	Switzerland
James	Stuart	Cardiff	United Kingdom
Jauregui Aguilar	Ana Elva	Frankfurt am Main	Germany
Jia	Wenqing	Beijing	China
Ju	Chang-il	Gwangju metropolitan city	Korea, Rep. of South
Kang	Min-Seok	Seoul	Korea, Rep. of South
Karim	Md Rezaul	Dhaka	Bangladesh
Kelly	Michael	Dublin	Ireland
Kett-White	Rupert	Swansea	United Kingdom
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Khan	Mohammad Shahidul Islam	Dhaka	Bangladesh
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La Barbera	Luigi	Milan	Italy
Lamas	Vincent	Strasbourg	France



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McCabe	Fergus	Galway	Ireland
McGillion	Stephen	Southampton	United Kingdom
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Miah	Mohammad Badsha	Gopalgonj	Bangladesh
Milavec	Helena	Aarau	Switzerland
Mitra	Rathijit	Salford	United Kingdom
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