



**EURO
SPINE**



EUROSPINE

COVID 19: Taking Immediate,
Decisive Action for a Strong Future

Annual Report 2020



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

In this first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, all EUROSPINE's activities had to be cancelled, postponed, or redefined with the safety of EUROSPINE members, sponsors, and stakeholders foremost in our minds. At great cost to our non-profit Society, decisive action was taken in a timely manner at each juncture to enable all event and educational activity participants to cancel travel plans without incurring fees and rearrange schedules accordingly.

In spite of these difficult circumstances, the EUROSPINE Executive Committee, committee members and staff rose to the occasion, continuing to provide excellent service to members. Educational offerings were taken online, our Annual Meeting was transformed into a high-quality virtual event, and we continued to make progress in important projects such as Spine Tango and the EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE). Patient Line saw a huge increase in users and EuSSAB meetings were hosted virtually to keep lines of communication open. Against all odds, and perhaps in recognition of our successes, our membership has continued to show some growth throughout the pandemic. Social media engagement has increased substantially. In November 2020, EUROSPINE and the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) entered into a cooperation agreement to pursue the creation of a new spine journal.

Our rapid digitalisation of educational services, and in particular, the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting, was a successful undertaking, enabling EUROSPINE to mitigate a crisis and future-proof our organisation at the same time. From this point forward, we will be in a position to offer both online events and hybrid events with in-person attendance and a virtual option for those unable to travel. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our EUROSPINE directors and managers, external advisors Beat Leimbacher (general commercial and strategic advisor), Emin Aghayev (Spine Tango), Wolf Frenkel (legal counsel), Mondial (PCO) and of course all our ExCom colleagues and officers, without whom none of this would have been possible.

A full year of cancellations and retooling, however, has led to significant financial hardship. We have been forced to draw upon our cash reserves for continued survival. Revenues have decreased substantially while fixed costs have remained stable. As a result, some programmes, such as our research grant programme, have been put on hold. Our main focus for 2020–2022 is to ensure and regain financial stability for EUROSPINE, reinstate important programmes and continue adding value for our membership.

We wish to call upon our EUROSPINE membership for support to enable us to move forward with a rich palette of membership services encompassing education, research, quality assurance, and premier meetings and events. Please register for events as soon as they are announced and plan to attend as many as possible, whether in-person or online. Help EUROSPINE move forward as the leading spine society in Europe so we can come together as one to improve care for spine patients the world over.

Sincerely,

Everard Munting, President

Thomas Blattert, Vice President

Tim Pigott, Past President

Please support EUROSPINE:

- *Register early for events
- *Attend as many events as possible
- *Promote EUROSPINE and our activities to colleagues

Help us to continue offering top-quality services as the leading spine society in Europe!

EUROSPINE Strategic Priorities 2020

At the beginning of the fiscal year, EUROSPINE defined four strategic priorities:

Spine Tango:

- Further expand participation and further improve user friendliness
- Create business model to recover EUROSPINE's historical costs and ensure sustainable future funding

Education:

- Further develop eLearning & EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) concept

Membership / European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB):

- Increase EUROSPINE membership and proportion of conservative care providers and researchers
- Further strengthen our EuSSAB platform to bring national societies together

Meetings:

- Ensure high-quality scientific content
- Prepare for future market changes
- Ensure flexible budgeting

SPINE TANGO: POWERFUL NEW CAPABILITIES AND WIDER ACCEPTANCE

Established in 2002, [Spine Tango](#) is the EUROSPINE international registry used to collect standardised data on treatment effectiveness, patient safety and best practice. This year we have continued to integrate valuable new features that enable and simplify treatment and implant quality assurance and evidence-based research. Nearly 800,000 forms from five continents have been collected thus far.

New Generation of Benchmarking Reports

Thanks to a strong Task Force supported by Robert Conrad and the expertise of Emin Aghayev, we have implemented the new series of benchmarking reports, making Spine Tango the go-to solution for performance benchmarking and a collective evidence base of treatment effectiveness, patient safety and best practice. Following a successful change of provider to Northgate Public Services, Spine Tango won the mandate to run the Swiss Spine Implant Registry "SIRIS Spine" and is currently negotiating with other national societies to establish and manage their registries.

Sustainable Funding Model and Reporting on Implant Performance

In 2020, an innovative new model for collaboration with the MedTech industry for the purpose of a sustainable registry funding was established. An implant library was developed and is constantly being updated using different mechanisms. Today the library includes 175,000 single implant specifications from nearly 40 manufacturers. Several manufacturers have joined the collaboration and are benefiting from regular standard and customised reporting based on aggregated anonymous data. As we move into 2021, we will continue development of the collaboration with manufacturers as well as with other stakeholders.

EDUCATION: MOVING INTO THE DIGITAL AGE WITH eLEARNING

EUROSPINE Diploma and Advanced Diploma

EUROSPINE offers a comprehensive [education programme](#), with courses and diploma programmes aimed at health care professionals from all disciplines of spine care. Unfortunately, our Education Week (EduWeek) in 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 social distancing and travel restrictions. To minimise disruption in ongoing training, all efforts have been made to take our existing blended learning platform completely online, offering participants full flexibility. Our first fully virtual [EduWeek](#), offering both EUROSPINE Diploma and EUROSPINE Advanced Diploma modules, will be held online from 28–30 June 2021. A hybrid blended learning course with both online and in-person sessions is planned for 2022.

EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC)

Preparations for all seven [EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care \(EDISC\)](#) modules have been completed (pre-learning, eLearning, webinars, mandatory and voluntary reading lists, YouTube, etc.). This affordable course includes a blended approach of eLearning, lectures, interactive sessions, group work, case-based discussions, workshops, and live plenary sessions for all spine practitioners. The EDISC Diploma can be obtained by completing 7 modules over a period of three years. The next [EDISC modules](#) will be presented online starting in September 2021.

EUROSPINE Diploma Equivalence Programme

The [EUROSPINE Diploma Equivalence programme](#) allows surgeons who have completed a diploma deemed commensurate with the EUROSPINE Diploma through another spine society to receive the EUROSPINE Diploma. Agreements have been signed with seven national societies to date. Societies who are Institutional Members of EUROSPINE and who have a recognised national spine curriculum with aims and learning outcomes similar to the Basic or Advanced EUROSPINE Diploma are welcome to apply for equivalence.

Observership Programme

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the [Observership programme](#) is currently on hold. Applications will be accepted for review again once the programme resumes.

NEW! Spine Tuesday

EUROSPINE is very proud to offer [Spine Tuesday](#), a free webinar series for all – both members and non-members of EUROSPINE. Spine Tuesday focusses on state-of-the-art updates and highlights in spine care. Each interactive webinar includes three presentations by renowned experts and a question-and-answer session for participants.

Special Thanks

We wish to thank Margareta Nordin (EDISC Task Force Chair), Dominique Rothenfluh (EduCom Chair), Julie-Lyn Noel, Sandy Sutter and all members of our education committee and the EDISC Task Force for their outstanding achievement in digitalising the entire EUROSPINE Education & EDISC programme in a very short time period in the face of an unrelenting pandemic.

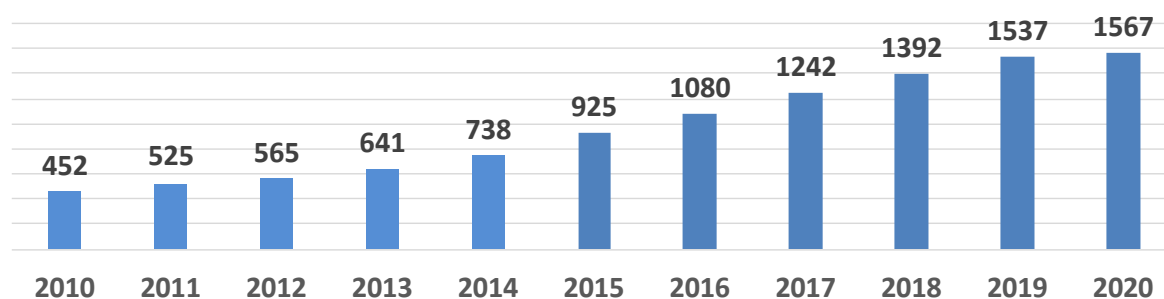
MEMBERSHIP: CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPITE OF COVID CANCELLATIONS

We were delighted to welcome 161 new members from 45 countries in 2020, and to increase our EUROSPINE Ambassadors programme (to promote the EUROSPINE 2020 virtual meeting) to 28 members.

Despite cancellations and postponements due to COVID-19, demand for valuable EUROSPINE services and networking opportunities has remained stable. Even though EUROSPINE events and activities could not take place in 2020, many members demonstrated their loyalty and support through a difficult period by continuing to pay their membership fees on time. Unfortunately, EUROSPINE's transition to a new membership data management system disabled the fees payment system for some time at the end of 2020, making it impossible for some members to pay their fees. If you were affected by this payment outage, we apologise and strongly encourage you to pay any outstanding balances as quickly as possible.

We look forward to once again welcoming all our members in person at educational activities and meetings in late 2021!

EUROSPINE Membership Growth 2010–2020



MEETINGS: CANCELLATIONS AND A VIRTUAL SUCCESS

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all in-person meetings had to be cancelled, postponed, or held online in 2020. These cancellations were not only a huge disappointment for both EUROSPINE and meeting attendees – they also eliminated EUROSPINE's most important sources of revenue for the entire year. As a non-profit organisation, the consequences of this revenue loss are severe.

Virtual EUROSPINE 2020

As soon as it became apparent that EUROSPINE would not be able to hold its 2020 Annual Meeting in Vienna, the team sprang into action. All delegates and sponsors were notified well in advance to cancel travel plans without incurring costs. However, that was only the beginning of the effort to bring a full scientific programme to our members in spite of these difficult restrictions. A comprehensive virtual Annual Meeting complete with industry showrooms was set up within a matter of months, to bring you a professional online learning and networking experience.

Every aspect of the Annual Meeting plans was retooled so that we would be able to present a live, virtual version of our usual meeting. [Virtual EUROSPINE 2020](#) was held twice daily online from 6 – 9 October 2020, featuring:

- 42 'meet the expert' sessions
- 156 scientific presentations
- 3 live debates
- 3 keynote addresses
- 90 e-posters
- 18 industry workshops

Delegate feedback for the Annual Meeting was highly positive. Industry workshops were attended by 1,212 delegates and sponsors, while 1,683 attended the 'meet the expert' sessions. The Q & A tool was used 1,177 times. For industry participants, the virtual exhibition did not have the same impact as an in-person onsite exhibition (it is much harder to drive traffic to virtual booths than a live exhibition). We are very much looking forward to the EUROSPINE 2021 hybrid meeting in Vienna to bring everyone together face-to-face once again!

We wish to thank all members and sponsors who supported us by attending our virtual Annual Meeting – every bit of revenue generated will help us to continue our important work in the coming years. We are very proud of the work done by the EUROSPINE team to accomplish the impossible in such a limited time frame and wish to extend special thanks to Tamás Fekete and the Programme Committee, Mondial, our PCO, and to our Administration and Marketing team: Judith Reichert, Anna Faber and Claudia Ortner.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS

EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE)

[EUROSPINE Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence \(SSCoE\)](#) is a certification programme for spine institutions that aims to audit and certify the implementation of services that advance spine surgery and spine care.

In the past two years since the programme's inception, 19 hospitals have been certified and 11 more are expected to complete the process within the next 12 months.

European Spine Societies Advisory Board (EuSSAB)

EUROSPINE's EuSSAB, the [European Spine Societies Advisory Board](#), provides a communication platform where national spine societies can meet on a regular basis as equal partners to define common goals, identify challenges facing spine care and develop strategies to address them.

This year we successfully launched the EuSSAB Newsletter, delivering the first two editions in January and August 2020. In addition, two web calls were held with national EuSSAB representatives in July to promote virtual EUROSPINE 2020. The first EuSSAB webinar was held following cancellation of the EuSSAB Spring Meeting 2020 (23 participants representing 21 countries).

Social Media

EUROSPINE [social media](#) and [website](#) engagement – initiated and facilitated by Anna Faber – is increasing substantially. We are pleased to note that we now have 21,836 followers on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Patient Line

[Patient Line](#) is a website hosted by EUROSPINE to help patients better understand their spine condition and to better communicate with their doctor when making decisions on treatments. Since the advent of lockdown, Patient Line has seen a 128% increase in website traffic and 240% increase in new users, proving its value as an important resource. Three new languages were added in 2020, for a total of 14, making information accessible to patients the world over.

Brain & Spine

In November 2020, EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, and the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) entered into a Joint Journal Cooperation Agreement (the "JJCA") to pursue the creation of a jointly-owned and managed journal to lead brain, nerve- and spine-disorder diagnosis, pathophysiology and treatment and to promote their respective societies.

The JJCA will also encourage the two societies to regulate the marketing, financial issues, business development, and other related publishing initiatives that position them to recruit editors, reach authors, contributors, and readers, and to deliver value to their respective association members and communities.

Organisational Process Improvement

This year a new [membership data management system](#) was implemented, enabling members to access their EUROSPINE membership benefits, including online access to the European Spine Journal and reduced registration fees for educational events.

EUROSPINE in 2021

Moving into 2021, the world is still fully in the grip of the pandemic. As vaccine programmes roll out around the world, we are looking to the second half of 2021 to plan our first in-person events. In the interim, EUROSPINE will work to provide a full range of top-quality virtual services (incl. educational activities and meetings). Fees collected from these events are paramount to continuing EUROSPINE's services – please register early!

Education

A fully virtual [Education Week](#) is planned from 28–30 June 2021, and the virtual [EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care](#) will start in August 2021. All course participants originally registered for EduWeek 2020 will be able to obtain their EUROSPINE Diploma in 2021.

EUROSPINE Annual Meeting 2021

We are highly optimistic that we will be able to host an in-person Annual Meeting next year. For organisational reasons, the EUROSPINE 2021 event location has been moved from Gothenburg, Sweden to Vienna, Austria from 6 – 8 October 2021. This will be a hybrid event with a virtual meeting available to all who wish to attend but are unable to travel. Lessons learned from our first virtual meeting will help make next year's meeting even better. It is likely that from now on all future annual meetings will be organised as hybrid events.

Spring Meeting

[Spring Specialty Webinar Series](#)

EUROSPINE is planning to host a twice-weekly Spring Specialty Webinar Series from 6–20 May 2021. We hope you will attend this interesting and informative online event exploring "Dilemmas in Spine".

EUROSPINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2020

Friday, 9 October 2020, 14:00–15:00 (Members only)

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

71–87 (max) members logged-in

Content of the presidential addresses is detailed in the report above.

1. **Welcome and Approval of the last minutes:**

Joerg Franke, Secretary EUROSPINE and Member of the Executive Committee

- GA minutes: 2019 Helsinki – approved.
- EAGA minutes: 27 July 2020, (virtual) – approved.

2. **Current Status / Major Achievements 2019/2020**

Everard Munting, EUROSPINE President

3. **Outlook 2020/2022**

Everard Munting, President

4. **New EUROSPINE–EANS Joint Journal**

Everard Munting, President

Context

EUROSPINE has decided to part ways with ESJ and co-create a new journal with EANS

Rationale

ESJ was not forthcoming in:

- Providing financial transparency
- The selection process of the editorial board

ESJ organised concurrent activities (without informing or coordinating with EUROSPINE)

EANS experienced similar problems with their journal

Assessment Approach

- Consultant
 - Graham Lees was engaged by both societies to identify potential publishers and options (classic publisher, à la carte, self-publishing)
- Survey sent to members of both societies
 - EUROSPINE: 430 responses (>80% are in favour of a new journal and ready to submit papers)

Operating Model

- Shared ownership 50/50 EUROSPINE - EANS
- Open access, reasonable Article Processing Costs (APC)
- Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Board 50/50

Management Structure

- Editors-in-Chief:
 - Frank Kandziora and Wilco Peul
- Editorial Board:
 - To be put together by the two editors in chief

• Publisher: Elsevier

Rationale for selection:

- No investment needed, no financial risk
- Frank and Wilco see this as the best solution.

- No APC first year, reduced APC second year
- Strong marketing support
- No other 'classical' publisher is in the running
- Next Steps
 - Finalise legal documents
 - Define journal content (Ed-in-Ch)
 - Define constitution of the Editorial Board (Ed-in-Ch)
 - Recruit reviewers
 - Finalise contract with Elsevier
 - Create business plan (incl. all cost /compensation issues / org structure / marketing, etc.)
 - Request submissions! (First issue to be published in early Spring 2021)

5. **Society Business Financials: Final figures 2019 / budget 2021 (as presented in the 2019 Annual Report)**

Beat Leimbacher, Delegate of ExCom

One question from Jarkko Halme on why the operational costs are almost 200K higher in 2021 against 2019 is answered by Beat Leimbacher: One front desk manager hiring to run the Swiss Spine, increased preparations for EDISC going virtual and costs to get prepared for different options to meet the further outcome of COVID19.

- Request for approval: Financial Statements 2019 - approved

Negative impact of COVID-19 on financial year 2020

- ExCom cancelled/postponed all activities far in advance, avoiding cancellation costs, changed the annual meeting into a virtual event and focussed on core goals set for 2020
- COVID -19 has had a tremendous negative impact on our 2020 financial figures
 - The 2020 approved budget (loss of € 557,000) was based on € 1.38 m income from AM Vienna
 - Several investments were planned for EDISC, Spine Tango, Spring Meeting, Website, 1-2 hirings
 - COVID-19 changed everything: no activities mean no income, but fixed costs remain
 - Changing from the in-person Annual Meeting to the Virtual Meeting led to a shortfall of € 1 m
 - If we hadn't immediately taken action to set up the Virtual Meeting, the shortfall would have been even higher

Negative impact of COVID-19 on Budget 2021

- As COVID-19 remains unpredictable, reliable planning and budgeting is difficult
 - 2020 will end with a significantly higher loss than budgeted
 - 2020 therefore cannot serve as the basis for the 2021 budget
 - 2021 budget must be based on assumptions that may change, with a positive or negative impact
- The core priorities for 2021 are:
 - Ensure liquidity by keeping cash costs low and ensuring cash income
 - Deliver core activities in the most appropriate form
 - Present in-person events whenever external and internal circumstances allow
 - Use a hybrid format if required
 - Offer virtual events only if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place

You as a member can help: register early for our activities and participate in as many as possible

Budget 2021

- The following budget is a best estimate based on:
 - The current situation
 - Many unknown factors

- The ExCom is asking for your:
 - Approval to maintain flexibility by changing budget items
 - Support by participating in our meeting activities – and remember: register early
 - Promotion of our other activities such as Spine Tango, Hospital Certification, EDISC, TFR courses etc.

Budget 2021 (compared to final 2019 figures)

REVENUE	2021	audited 2019
Memberfees	150 000	180 148
Profit Spring Meeting (PCO)	0	0
Profit Fall Meeting (PCO)	698 000	1 525 376
Education Week	345 000	292 945
Hybrid Education Week	0	142 492
EDISC	30 000	15 972
Education other	10 000	13 095
Income spine Tango	300 000	0
TFR courses	11 000	5 600
Spine Centres of Excellence	10 000	32 740
Total Revenue	1 554 000	2 208 368

Budget 2021 (compared to final 2019 figures)

EXPENSES	2021	audited 2019
Meetings	68 000	73 672
Education	318 000	562 195
Research	70 000	213 444
Specific Projects/Task Forces	458 600	449 061
Committees	90 000	96 678
Operating expenses	1 100 000	926 307
Financial expenses	0	64 511
Total Expenses	2 104 600	2 385 868
Annual profit / (loss)	(550 600)	(177 500)

Budget 2021 conclusions

COVID-19 remains unpredictable, therefore reliable planning and budgeting is difficult

- The currently budgeted loss of € 550' is our best estimate assuming:
 - Income from our next AM is just € 700' (50% of the normal profit)
 - EDISC course is 100% virtual, instead of a hybrid version
 - Research Grant programme remains on hold for another year (2021)
 - Costly website project continues as planned
- The ExCom, however, feels that these measures are not necessarily sufficient
 - We will continue to optimise the budget based on the further development of COVID-19
 - COVID-19 will have an impact on the financial outcome of our next Annual Meeting as well

We are aiming for a budgeted loss of well below € 500,000

Approval requested for a budget of € 550,600 for 2021 – 94% approved, 6% abstains.

Re-election of the auditors for 2020 – 98% approved, 2% abstains

6. Membership

In 2020 there were 161 new Members and Corresponding Members ratified from 45 different countries

7. Nominations

Jörg Franke, Secretary

In the extraordinary General Assembly in July 2020, it was decided to prolong the terms of the Executive Committee and Councils for another year.

Nevertheless, we do have some new members and one chair to re-new, starting with the term of 2021:

Patient Line Committee

New Chair:

Derek Cawley, Ireland

New Member:

Phil Sell, United Kingdom

Triantafyllos Bouras, Belgium

Task Force Research

New Member:

Silvano Ferrari, Italy

SSCoE

New Member:

Sven Eicker, Germany

8. Miscellaneous

We want to thank the Swedish Society for Spinal Surgeons for the opportunity to support and install the SweSpine dialogue support.

v1_20201123 to JF/BL

9 October 2020

Jörg Franke, EUROSPINE Secretary
Judith Reichert Schild, EUROSPINE Administrative Director

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

This Treasury Report covers the 2020 fiscal year. It has been released well in advance of the General Assembly 2021 to allow you adequate time to review the figures beforehand.

The 2020 financial year has been the most challenging year in EUROSPINE's history, with COVID-19 putting our (financial) survival at high risk. This will remain the case in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced EUROSPINE to cancel, postpone or redefine all revenue-generating activities, leading to a significant loss of income needed to cover fixed costs. Despite pending financial duress, we ensured all cancellations were made well in advance to avoid incurring even higher costs for the Society, our members, participants, and stakeholders.

EUROSPINE initiated proactive crisis management, avoiding all non-essential expenditures while being among the first to replace our Annual Meeting in Vienna with a successful, top-quality virtual event. Virtual EUROSPINE 2020 was well attended and highly regarded by the spine community. However, from a financial perspective, income generated by the virtual meeting could not compare with the revenue expected from our usual in-person congress. Our fiscal year ended with a tremendous loss of € 734,890 cutting our equity in half, leaving only € 778,772 (30/12/19: €1,513,612).

Thanks to EUROSPINE's responsible long-term policy of limiting spending to what we earn, we had set aside a reserve to help our Society survive a disaster without external financial aid. This financial reserve has been the only thing standing between EUROSPINE and financial ruin during the COVID crisis.

As of the end of 2020, development of the pandemic is still unclear and is putting at risk our 2021 activities. EUROSPINE's financial situation could well deteriorate further. To mitigate the crisis, it will be of extreme importance that members pay their fees as early in the year as possible and that all potential delegates (members, non-members, stakeholders) register for activities as soon as they are announced – even before we can provide 100% assurance that the hybrid Annual Meeting will take place in person (as opposed to an all-virtual event). At this stage, we are confident that we will be able to hold the 2021 Annual Meeting in Vienna as planned.

Your support is crucial to EUROSPINE's continued provision of high-quality services and rebuilding our long-term financial strength.

68% Decline in Revenues from the Annual Meeting and Educational Activities

EUROSPINE's financial performance has always been strongly dependent on revenues generated by its Annual Meeting. Cancellation of the 2020 meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic had a harmful negative impact on our financial situation. The net profit of the virtual meeting was more than 1 million Euro lower than the average profit we got out of our annual meetings in the past.

Items such as PCO management and accounting for all cost- and income related expenses must be deducted from gross revenues to arrive at EUROSPINE's net profit. The change from the originally planned 'onsite' meeting in Vienna to a 'virtual' event significantly increased costs while reducing revenue from industry and delegate registrations. Furthermore, virtual exhibition slots could not be sold for the same price as booth space in an onsite exhibition.

In addition to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting, all educational activities in 2020 were postponed or cancelled. Thus, the income from our other activities (Education, Task Force Research, and Spine Tango) declined from € 502,844 to € 218,107. The loss of income from the education programme was particularly significant because we held two education events in 2019 (one full Education week and one Hybrid Week). The only EUROSPINE activity that developed well and continued to generate revenue during the pandemic was Spine Tango, which should soon reach cost recovery thanks in part to EUROSPINE's contract to run the registry for Swiss Spine.

Overall, the Society's total net revenue in 2020 declined by 68% to € 616,956 (in comparison to 2019).

Historic Net Loss of € 734,890

2020 was originally planned as a year of investment. The budget approved in the General Assembly 2019 was a loss of € 557,455. In the interim, some of our planned investments have been put on hold to prioritise continued delivery of high-quality services to our members and the spine community. Behind the scenes we invested our time while activities were cancelled to further fine-tune our eLearning approach and finalise our web-based EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) programme. We also had to make tough decisions, such as temporarily discontinuing our research grant programme.

Thankfully, we were able to avoid most of the costs for cancelled courses and did not incur any travel costs for council and committee meetings (as all meetings were held online).

Our net loss of € 734,890 is significantly above the budgeted loss and of course much greater than the 2019 result (loss of € 177,500). Using the € 300,000 provision that we set aside in 2016 for extraordinary situations kept the situation from being worse.

Loss of Revenue Could not be Compensated through Cost Control Measures

EUROSPINE's expenses are grouped into the following categories:

- Core Activities: Education and Research

Due to cancellations and suspending the research grant programme, expenses in this category have declined from € 849,311 to € 57,777. Costs for educational activities (Education Week and EDISC) could be reduced to compensate most of the revenue decline. At the same time, the education team led by Dominique Rothenfluh, Margareta Nordin and Julie-Lyn Noel were able to further fine-tune EUROSPINE's e-learning approach to provide hybrid education that combines onsite learning with online learning modules.

- Special Projects (Spine Tango, Patient Line, Journals) and Committee Costs

Special project expenses remained stable with € 456,905 compared to € 449,062, with the highest portion allocated to the Spine Tango registry and its task force (€370,722). This expense is fully justified as the income for our registry activities is steadily increasing. Further development will enable us to invest in a high-quality range of registry services for national registries, industry and individual hospitals.

The ongoing annual investment for Patient Line (€29,836) remained stable and is considered worthwhile, as it is an important service that helps patients directly. On average, the website generates tens of thousands of hits per month.

The increased cost for the Journals was due to our initiative to create a new journal in close cooperation with EANS – which must also be seen as investment into the future.

The costs for running the Surgical Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE) programme have been reduced to € 16,772, as most of the Task Force Work has been finalised.

Committee costs of € 51,018 have been cut by 48% as all meetings have taken place online.

- Human Resource Expenses

Human resources are and will remain EUROSPINE's highest cost position. Despite the cancellation of so many activities, the workload for our staff has not diminished. The transformation of the Annual Meeting into a virtual meeting and the further development of our eLearning programme have triggered a demanding workload. As a result, total personnel expenses remained fairly high at € 695.798 (2019: €735,569).

A key human resources challenge is the fast-changing environment that calls for specific new technical capabilities and knowledge, requiring additional hiring (i.e. bringing in specific knowledge, especially IT). Due to the pandemic, however, we could not undertake proactive measures in this respect.

- **Other Operating Expenses (office and marketing expenses)**

Operating expenses increased from €190,737 to €322,000 as we initiated the pre-work for a desperately needed new website. This is a very complex and cost-intensive project that requires careful preparation to avoid later cost overruns.

Due to the precarious financial situation, however, we decided not to start with the implementation of the website. We are ready to launch the request for proposal process with the firm that has been preselected as our potential implementation partner.

While marketing expenses remained stable, office and service expenses increased by 36% to €147,055 which was mainly due to higher cost for lawyer work.

Negative Impact of Loss on Balance Sheet

The substantial loss had a very strong negative impact on our balance sheet. Our cash and liquidity position has clearly suffered. As of 31 December 2020, the cash position declined from € 1,376,793 to € 1,088,228. At first glance this does not appear dramatic, however when taking into consideration that last year the payment from the Helsinki Annual meeting was still outstanding (which led to a cash position of almost € 2,000,000), this is a drop of almost 50%. Therefore, cash and liquidity management will be a key issue for EUROSPINE for the next 2-3 years that will be critical for the survival of the society.

The loss of € 734,890 for the year reduced our equity from € 1,513,612 to € 778,722.

Outlook for 2021

As we move into 2021 and beyond, EUROSPINE must continue its proactive management of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must closely monitor our liquidity, and much will depend on whether we are able to hold our hybrid annual meeting in Vienna in person. This will have a huge impact on our income.

We urgently request that our members pay their membership fees as early as possible in the year and register for our activities as soon as they are offered. Our financial situation in 2021 will once again be highly dependent on attracting as many delegates as possible to the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting 2021 in Vienna.

As Treasurer and Delegate of the ExCom, we are proud of the hard work put in by the EUROSPINE ExCom, Councils and Committees, and staff to launch successful new digitalised meetings and educational activities further strengthening our most essential products such as Education (EduWeek and EDISC), Meetings, Patient Line, Spine Tango, SCoE, EuSSAB, as well as initiating the new journal Brain & Spine. Against all odds and we are also very grateful for the continuing industry support.

Despite all the ongoing financial hardship our Executive Committee (ExCom) remains fully committed to our mission and vision, not only through managing the Society during a crisis, but also by delivering best practice services to our members and stakeholders at a reasonable cost. Please support us so we can continue to advance spine care the world over.

Events Following the Balance Sheet Date

After 31 December 2020 the coronavirus was still considered high risk and many countries across the world continued strong restrictions to public life. The EUROSPINE Executive Committee is continuously monitoring events and will take further necessary measures as required. At the time of approval of this annual financial statement, any additional financial consequences of the direct and indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot yet be reliably assessed. However, it may well be that this pandemic could have an additional significant negative impact on EUROSPINE and its financial situation, depending on the final outcome.

EUROSPINE AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

TREUHAND
VON FLÜE AG

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Report of the statutory auditors
on the limited statutory
examination to the
General Meeting of
**EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of
Europe**
8610 Uster

Zug, July 20, 2021

As statutory auditors, 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, 2020**.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of the society. 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 society's articles of incorporation.

We draw to your attention that the financial statements have not been submitted to the Annual General Assembly within six months 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)

EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, 8610 Uster / Switzerland

**Balance sheet as of 31 December
(in EUR)**

	Notes	2020	2019
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		1 088 228	1 376 793
Trade accounts receivables			
due from third parties		10 000	4 000
Other short-term receivables		10 240	29 023
Prepaid expenses	2.1	32 116	19 929
Accrued income			
due from third parties		35 947	705 244
due from members		32 670	42 110
Total current assets		1 209 201	2 177 099
TOTAL ASSETS		1 209 201	2 177 099
LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY			
Short-term liabilities			
Trade accounts payables		134 220	219 128
Other short-term liabilities		9 163	32 357
Prepayments from members		9 270	39 385
Prepayments for education	2.1	237 326	0
Provision for long-term prosperity of Society	2.2	0	300 000
Accrued expenses		40 500	72 617
Total short-term liabilities		430 479	663 487
Total liabilities		430 479	663 487
Society's equity			
Society capital		1 513 612	1 691 112
Loss for the year		(734 890)	(177 500)
Total society's equity		778 722	1 513 612
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SOCIETY'S EQUITY		1 209 201	2 177 099

EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, 8610 Uster / Switzerland

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

	Notes	2020	2019
Memberfees		167 724	180 148
Profit EuroSpine Annual Meeting	4.1	231 125	1 525 377
Education / TFR / Spine Tango		218 107	502 844
Total net revenue		616 956	2 208 369
Annual meetings	4.2	(44 067)	(73 672)
Education week		0	(349 524)
Advanced course		0	(2 165)
EDISC interprofessional courses		0	(48 906)
Education		(9 915)	(169 815)
Research Task Force, Course		0	(57 587)
Research Task Force, Grants		(3 795)	(147 643)
Total Activities		(57 777)	(849 312)
Spine Tango		(370 722)	(349 859)
Patient Line		(29 836)	(29 510)
Journals		(36 000)	(25 000)
Non-Surgical Diplomas		0	(14 835)
Spine Centres of Excellence		(16 772)	(27 252)
Foundation		0	(606)
Awards		(2 000)	(2 000)
EOGA and virtual GA		(1 575)	0
Total Projects		(456 905)	(449 062)
ExCom		(24 901)	(65 202)
Research Task Force		(2 841)	(10 835)
Smaller Committees		(22 896)	(16 881)
Cooperation with related societies		(380)	(3 760)
Total Committees		(51 018)	(96 678)
Total Activities / Projects / Committees		(565 700)	(1 395 052)
Gross profit		51 256	813 317

EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe, 8610 Uster / Switzerland

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

	Notes	2020	2019
Gross profit		51 256	813 317
Personnel expenses	3.1	(695 798)	(735 569)
Office and services expenses		(147 055)	(107 441)
Marketing expenses		(23 592)	(25 116)
IT and website		(131 343)	(54 712)
PR and annual report		(20 010)	(3 468)
Total other operating expenses		(322 000)	(190 737)
Operating result		(966 542)	(112 989)
Financial expenses		(12 276)	(10 677)
Currency exchange expenses realised		(1 027)	(636)
Currency exchange expenses unrealised		(20 407)	(32 741)
Total financial income and expenses		(33 710)	(44 054)
Extraordinary or prior periods income and expenses	2.2 / 4.3	265 362	(20 457)
Loss for the year		(734 890)	(177 500)

Notes to the financial statements 2020
(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).

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.

2.2 Provision / Hidden reserves

A provision of EUR 300'000 has been made in 2016 in order to secure the long-term prosperity of the society and to straighten income fluctuation over the years. In 2020 this position was released to P&L.

Net release of hidden reserves EUR 300'000 (previous year: EUR 0).

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 2020 there are liabilities towards the pension scheme of EUR 0 (previous year: EUR 1).

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.

**Notes to the financial statements 2020
(in EUR)**

3.4 Significant events after the balance sheet date

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 are taking increasingly stringent steps to help contain or delay the spread of the virus. Currently, there is a significant increase in economic uncertainty which is, for example, evidenced by more volatile asset prices and currency exchange rates.

For the best of society knowledge, there is no impact on the recognition and measurement of assets and liabilities. Due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the next events, the society cannot reasonably estimate the impact these events will have on the society's financial position, results of operations or cash flows in the future.

However, the society has meanwhile implemented short-term work for its employees in Switzerland 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 to secure liquidity and going concern. Further measures are under discussion to secure going concern in case return to normal business will remain difficult.

The pre-registration for short-time work has been approved by the Canton of Zurich. In December 2020, compensation of EUR 4'689 was accrued. These are booked as an expense reduction in personnel expenses.

4. Other notes

4.1 Profit EuroSpine Congress Helsinki 2019 and virtual congress 2020

Congress accounts were prepared by external service providers. The society's accountants have performed procedures agreed in accordance with the Swiss Auditing Standard 920 in respect to the congress 2019. No procedures agreed were performed for the virtual congress 2020. The net results of these congresses are received by EuroSpine.

4.2 Loss Spring Specialty Meetings

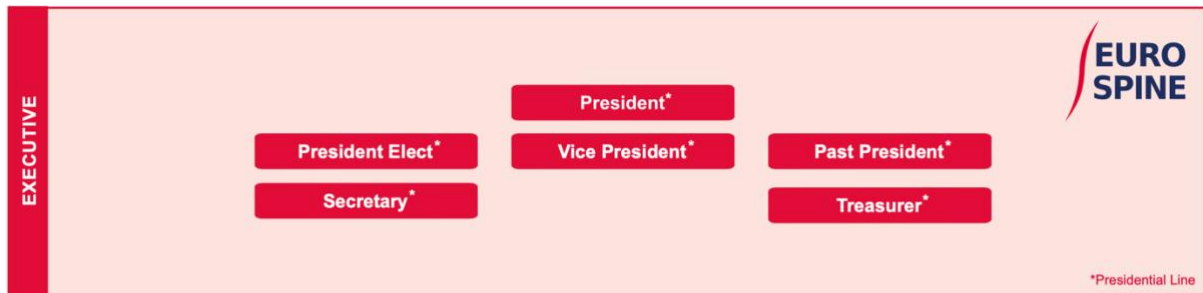
Congress accounts were prepared by external service providers. No Spring meeting was held in current year due to COVID. No procedures agreed in accordance with the Swiss Auditing Standard 920 were performed in respect to these congress statements. The expenses 2020 are mainly preparation and cancellation fees for the congress.

4.3 Explanations concerning extraordinary or prior periods items in the profit and loss account

	2020	2019
Release of provision from 2016	300 000	0
Correction differences memberfees 2019 / 2018	(33 010)	(14 270)
Expenses Helsinki Meeting 2019 / Barcelona 2018	(1 628)	(6 187)
	265 362	(20 457)

There are no other issues that need to be disclosed in accordance with Art. 959c Swiss Code of Obligations.

ORGANISATION AND OFFICERS (ORG CHART)



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee

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Tim Pigott, United Kingdom	Past President
Jörg Franke, Germany	Secretary
Zdenek Klézl, United Kingdom	Treasurer
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Christoph Siepe, Germany	Chair, EuSSAB Council

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Pierre Côté, Canada	
Bart Depreitere, Belgium	
Werner Schmoelz, Austria	
Karin Wuertz-Kozak, Switzerland	
Erik Werner, Norway	ex officio

Task Force Interprofessional Spine Care

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Richard Brown, Canada	
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Christine Cedraschi, Switzerland	
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Chair

Bart Depreitere, Belgium

Advisor

Andrea Luca, Italy

Advisor

Everard Munting, Belgium

Advisor

Emin Aghayev, Switzerland

Pedro Dos Santos Silva, Portugal

Jirí Dvorák, Switzerland

Josef Grohs, Austria

Beat Leimbacher, Switzerland

Samuel Morris, United Kingdom

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Jörg Fanke, Germany

Ralph Kothe, Germany

Beat Leimbacher, Switzerland

Teija Lund, Finland

Everard Munting, Belgium

Margareta Nordin, France

Susana Nuñez, Pereira, Spain

Norbert Passuti, France

Tim Pigott, United Kingdom

Andreas Pingel, Germany

Clemens Weber, Germany

Michael Winking, Germany

NEW MEMBERS LIST

Name	City	Country
Adib Sasan Darius	Tübingen	Germany
Akbar Michael	Berlin	Germany
Al-Hamal Hussain	Munich	Germany
Almousa Ala'a	Zarqa	Jordan
Alqatub Ahmed Hashim	Karbala	Iraq
Altikrity Atheer Turki Abdulkareem	Baghdad/ Zyona	Iraq
Andresen Andreas Duch Kiilerich	Middelfart	Denmark
Antoniou Georgios	Kavala	Greece
Archavlis Eleftherios	Mainz	Germany
Arik Mustafa	Kayseri	Turkey
Baid Prashant Kumar	Kolkata	India
Bailly Florian	Paris	France
Balbisi Basel	Croxley Green	United Kingdom
Balestrino Alberto	Genova	Italy
Baraliu Valon	Weiden i.d.Opf.	Germany
Baranto Adad	Gothenburg	Sweden
Bazhanov Sergey	Saratov	Russian Federation
Berezcki Ferenc	Budapest	Hungary
Biczó Adam	Budapest	Hungary
Bokhari Hisham Abdulbasit	Berlin	Germany
Bonk Maximilian-Niklas	Augsburg	Germany
Chan Sik Kwan	Tuen Mun	Hong Kong (SAR of China)
Chen Qianfen	Nanning.Guangxi	China
Cirullo Agostino	Milano	Italy
Czabanka Marcus	Berlin	Germany
de Boer Maarten Anne	Diemen	Netherlands
de Macêdo Breno Santiago	Recife	Brazil
Depauw Paul	Tilburg	Netherlands
Dewilde Thibault R	Leuven	Belgium
Dherijha Muhammad	Gatley	United Kingdom
Dijk, van Nienke	Leidschendam	Netherlands
Dimitriou Julien	Morges	Switzerland
Disch Alexander Carl	Dresden	Germany
Domingos Lucas	Leiria	Portugal
Dsouza Areena Rouchelle	Vogtareuth	Germany
Eicker Sven Oliver	Hamburg	Germany
Enders Frederik	Mannheim	Germany
Fichtner Jens	Bern	Switzerland
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García Cañas Rafael	Madrid	Spain
Gee Teak Sheng	Bayan Lepas	Malaysia
Georgiadis Iordanis	Larissa	Greece
Georgiopoulos Miltiadis	Patras	Greece
Gessara Alan Maximiliano	Nottingham	United Kingdom
Geuze Ruth Elizabeth	Tilburg	Netherlands

Name	City	Country
Ghodiwala Tossif	Moscow	Russian Federation
Giordan Enrico	Treviso	Italy
Grech Stephan	Naxxar	Malta
Groot Olivier Quinten	Boston	USA
Gutowski Pawel	Berlin	Germany
Hajjaj Shareef	Berlin	Germany
Hallager Dennis Winge	Kongens Lyngby	Denmark
Hammad Ahmed	Augsburg	Germany
Hanschen Marc	Munich	Germany
Hartig Dennis	Royal Brisbane Hospital	Australia
Hashmi Imtiaz Ahmed	Karachi	Pakistan
Hasler Rebecca Maria	Zurich	Switzerland
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Husien Mohammed Ben	Dublin	Ireland
Iacoangeli Francesco	Paris	France
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Kakanan Chumpon	Nakhon-Nayok	Thailand
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McManus Robin	Dublin 3	Ireland
Morgenstern Christian	Barcelona	Spain
Muijs Sander	utrecht	Netherlands

Name	City	Country
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Munasinghe Arachchige Surath Sanjaya Kumara	Colombo	Sri Lanka
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Raunio Sami	Hamilton	New Zealand
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Shulga Aleksey	Saratov	Russian Federation
Singhatanadgige Weerasak	Bangkok	Thailand
Skalli Wafa	Paris	France

Name	City	Country
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Tejera Morett Alejandro	Zapopan	Mexico
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