

The background image is a blue-tinted photograph of a busy trade show floor. In the foreground, several people are walking or standing. A man on the left is holding a cup. A woman in the center is looking at her phone. In the background, there is a large, modern exhibition stand for Euro Spine, featuring a large 'X' graphic and the company name. To the right, a large wall displays the text 'POWERED BY MEMBERS'.

**EURO  
SPINE**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ADVANCING SPINE CARE BY EXCELLENCE,  
REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND  
CONNECTING PEOPLE

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

In 2024, EUROSPINE has experienced another year of strong momentum and meaningful progress. Grounded in our steadfast commitment to our members, we embraced a new Community & Leadership approach, introduced an innovative “all-in-one venue” concept for our Annual Meeting, and made significant advancements across our strategic pillars of Education, Research, and the Spine Tango registry.

Our Annual Meeting in Vienna welcomed 3,631 delegates from 84 countries, featuring a high-quality scientific and educational programme. The event fostered a vibrant, interactive environment centred around academic excellence and community-building. Participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reaffirming EUROSPINE's status as one of the leading global spine meetings.

Building on the foundation laid in previous years—and in close collaboration with our stakeholders—EUROSPINE has taken considerable strides to enhance scientific exchange and expand educational outreach, ultimately improving patient care globally. We focused on five mission-critical activities that exemplify our dedication.

**Education:** EduWeek 2024, held once again in Strasbourg, delivered our most comprehensive programme to date. Highlights included a new endoscopy course, a redesigned research course, and highly interactive modules. Our monthly Spine Tuesday webinars attracted over 2,300 attendees worldwide, continuing to offer CME-accredited interdisciplinary learning opportunities. The EDISC programme (EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care) reached new heights with its fourth cohort, underlining our strong commitment to educating a diverse range of spine care professionals.

**Research Progress:** Our Research activities gained further traction in 2024. A redesigned research education programme, complemented by a competitive grant process, supports the next generation of spine professionals, reaffirming our focus on interdisciplinary and clinically relevant research.

**Spine Tango:** Underwent substantial enhancements, including an expansion of ePROM languages, QR code-based access, real-time analytics powered by Power BI, and a more streamlined data structure. The former Task Force has transitioned to a standing committee, and new data access policies now permit the use of anonymised datasets for academic research. Additionally, we launched the Spine Atlas Initiative—an ambitious global collaboration focusing on degenerative lumbar spondylolisthesis and involving over 150 hospitals across 50 countries.

**Membership and Community:** Our Membership and Community framework remains the backbone of our society. The newly restructured Community & Leadership Council has accelerated efforts to recruit new members and support existing ones, particularly early-career professionals. New task forces centred on mentorship, diversity, and leadership development are already yielding positive results. Membership levels have significantly increased, and our modernised application system has streamlined the onboarding process. We have also broadened global access by removing the “corresponding member” category, enabling full membership for spine professionals beyond Europe.

Moreover, through our Rehabilitation Council, we reaffirm our dedication to evidence-based, interprofessional rehabilitation. The Council has delivered impactful webinars and further developed the Patient Line, which offers educational resources for patients. EUROSPINE also played a pivotal role at the Spine20 Summit, co-leading sessions on rehabilitation policy and standardised education. Our collaboration with the WHO World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) has deepened as we actively support key global campaigns.

**Publications and Digital Engagement:** Together with EANS, we are proud to announce that Brain & Spine, our joint open-access journal, received its first official impact factor of 1.9—a remarkable achievement within just three years of its launch. The journal continues to grow in reputation, serving as a high-quality platform for cutting-edge research. In line with our communication and digitalisation strategy, our approach has evolved significantly in 2024, transforming from one-way broadcasting to meaningful engagement. By focusing on visibility, dialogue, and genuine interaction, we have introduced initiatives such as the From the President's Desk video series and new LinkedIn groups, fostering a digital community where every member's voice matters.

**Looking Ahead:** As we prepare for 2025, our priorities are clear: to create an even more exceptional experience for our Annual Meeting, deepen member engagement and loyalty, support emerging professionals, expand both in-person and digital educational opportunities, and drive innovation in research and care—particularly by leveraging the full potential of our Spine Tango registry.

We are profoundly grateful to our members, staff, partners, and supporters for their unwavering dedication.

Your commitment and contributions have made 2024 a remarkable success. Together, we are building a stronger future for spine care.

With warmest regards,

Dominique Rothenfluh, President 2024–2025

Ahmet Alanay, President 2023–2024



## EUROSPINE ANNUAL MEETING 2024: A NEW STANDARD IN FORMAT AND EXPERIENCE

Following the successful 2023 Annual Meeting in Frankfurt, the 2024 Annual Meeting took place from 2 to 4 October in Vienna, focusing on another attractive in-person experience. The event attracted 3,631 participants from 84 countries, a 14% increase in delegates compared to previous years, returning to pre-COVID attendance levels. Notably, participation from EUROSPINE members increased by nearly 40%, and Mexico had the highest delegate representation. Feedback on the scientific programme was again excellent, reinforcing our status as Europe's leading spine meeting. However, with growing competition and tighter funding, it's essential to stay attuned to audience needs for continued success.

### **Our programme committee stays fully committed to constantly improve our Annual Meeting achieving many new key developments in 2024:**

- Expert review of all submitted abstracts and selection of the best submitted research projects.
- Introduced an **"all-in-one venue"** concept to enhance interaction and networking.
- Launched a new educational format: **"Masterclasses – from Experts for Experts"** for live hands-on learning sessions
- Partnered with external providers for optimising venue layout, briefing of speakers and technical support.
- Invited distinguished experts and world-leading international keynote lecturers
- Well selected moderators for high-quality discussions.
- Continued **9 deep dive topic sessions** featuring top abstracts and keynote lectures.
- Offered engaging short educational formats on the **White Stage** – a mix of sessions for members only but also for all delegates.
- Created a **Science Corner** for informal, small-group abstract discussions.
- Collaborated with the **Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)** for Pre-Day Courses and expert contributions.

### **Developments in Annual Meeting Structure and Contributions from the Programme Committee:**

In 2024, the scientific programme built upon previous successes by prioritising quality over quantity. The nine thematic sessions maintained their structure, showcasing the top nine abstracts in each category, accompanied by a keynote lecture from a recognised expert. A total of 81 papers were selected for oral presentations on the main stages. The interactive format introduced in 2023 persisted, with oral presentations grouped into thematic blocks followed by moderated discussions, which received positive feedback for fostering engagement.

The Pre-Day and Lunch Symposia Committee significantly shaped the educational offerings. The two well-attended Pre-Day Courses on Adult Spinal Deformity and Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery received high ratings. The three Lunch Symposia attracted considerable interest, particularly the Nuclear Medicine in Spine Care session, followed by Spine Surgery 2.0 and Complex Thoracic Pathologies, contributing to the programme's educational success.

A key change in 2024 was the implementation of the "all-in-one venue" concept. For the first time, all three stages and the exhibition area were consolidated in a single hall, enhancing the flow between sessions, networking, and informal exchanges. To support this integrated approach, we partnered with an external provider to optimise the venue design, manage technical support, and provide professional speaker briefings and stage management. One of the main innovations was the "silent" Red Stage, where attendees used headphones to stream and follow the sessions.

To enhance our educational offerings, we introduced "Masterclasses – from experts for experts," featuring live demonstrations and in-depth teaching, alongside the existing White Stage with short educational formats. We also launched a Science Corner for informal discussions on selected abstracts. In 2024, we strengthened our collaboration with the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS), integrating their expertise into the Pre-Day courses and the main scientific programme, further enriching the meeting's scope and academic content.

The ongoing success of the Annual Meeting relies heavily on the dedication of our Programme Committee, who plays a key role in selecting high-quality abstracts and refining session formats to maintain our flagship event's educational value.

### 2025 Outlook: Enhancing Scientific and Educational Engagement at the Meeting Council

In 2025, the Meeting Council will have a new structure featuring two committees: the Scientific Programme Committee and the Educational Programme Committee, each led by an experienced chair. Ibrahim Obeid from Bordeaux, France, will succeed Javier Pizones as Meeting Council Chair after four years. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Javier Pizones for his long and outstanding commitment to the Meeting Council.

We will continue the successful "all-in-one venue" concept in Copenhagen, enhancing layout and networking, while focusing on deeper member engagement, especially for early-career professionals through targeted sessions and new educational initiatives.



## EDUCATION: EXPANDING THE REACH AND EMBRACING INNOVATION

EUROSPINE further advanced its mission in 2024 by enhancing global professional development for spine care professionals through innovative and inclusive educational initiatives. Key programmes included, in addition to our core activity EduWeek, Spine Tuesday webinars, diploma pathways, and observership grants, all aimed at raising standards and promoting excellence in spine education.

### **EduWeek 2024: Pioneering Advancements in Endoscopy and Research Education**

EduWeek 2024 has emerged as an expanded and evolving educational experience. Once again hosted at IRCAD in Strasbourg from 24 to 28 June 2024, EduWeek presents its most comprehensive offering to date. By extending to a five-day programme, it introduces a new stand-alone course on endoscopy and revamps the research course—both developed using a blended learning approach.

This year's programme included:

- 6 basic and 2 advanced modules in spine surgery
- An introduction to endoscopy course
- A highly interactive research course
- 15 CME-accredited courses offering over 80 credit hours
- Hands-on workshops in AI-assisted planning, bone-cutting technologies, and advanced surgical simulation
- 138 participants from 32 countries
- 58 faculty members representing 18 nations, including new instructors recruited through an open call to EUROSPINE members

The industry's support and collaboration remained robust, with key partners actively engaging in ways that enhanced the programme's quality and innovation. EduWeek 2024 reaffirmed EUROSPINE's dedication to providing practice-oriented, high-impact education within an inspiring and collegial environment.

### **Spine Tuesday Webinar Series: Expanding Global Reach and CME Opportunities**

The monthly Spine Tuesday webinars continued to thrive, attracting a growing international audience. Topics ranged from emerging surgical techniques to interdisciplinary case discussions. Highlights from 2024 included:

- 8 webinars held, with over 2,300 total attendees
- Live participation from professionals in more than 40 countries
- Continued increase in interdisciplinary content, engaging both surgical and non-surgical specialists

These sessions provide participants with an excellent opportunity for interactive learning, ensuring continued education beyond in-person events.

### **Diploma Equivalence and the Future of Spine Training in Europe**

EUROSPINE's Diploma Equivalence Programme continued to flourish through its focused and cooperative partnerships with national societies and organisations, such as the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS). As of 2024:

- Over 1,100 diplomas have been awarded via equivalence since 2016
- Approximately 70 additional diplomas were issued through direct participation in EduWeek 2024

A major milestone in 2024 was the finalisation of the European Training Requirements (ETR) in Spine Surgery, crafted by the EUROSPINE Task Force on Spine Diploma. In collaboration with EANS, EBOT, and UEMS, the ETR outlines harmonised learning outcomes and sets the stage for a European Board Examination in Spine Surgery. Final endorsement by the UEMS is expected by 2025, marking a crucial step toward the formal recognition of a spine surgery subspecialty in Europe.

### **Faculty Development and New Observership Grants**

In response to the growing demand for faculty diversification and clinical exposure, EUROSPINE

- Welcomed a third of the EduWeek 2024 faculty from newly recruited members following the 2023 call
- Launched new observership grants in late 2023, providing early-career professionals – as part of our new community and leadership approach - with access to leading European spine centres

These initiatives support talent development specifically for our younger members, broaden educational access, and ensure the long-term sustainability of excellence in spine education.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025: Building on Momentum in EUROSPINE's Education Council by**

- Introducing additional observership and travelling fellowship opportunities to enhance accessibility
- Expanding content in the Spine Tuesday webinars to include more case-based learning and interdisciplinary panels
- Launching a pilot of the European Board Examination following UEMS approval
- Exploring micro-credentialing for modular education formats aligned with CME and diploma pathways

### **Conclusion: EUROSPINE Education that Transcends Borders and Disciplines**

In 2024, EUROSPINE reaffirmed its commitment to high-quality, inclusive education tailored to the needs of spine care practitioners. Through strong partnerships with our industry partners and other spine related societies and an innovative faculty, EUROSPINE continues to unite diverse cultures, disciplines and contexts. Our clear vision is to empower all spine care professionals to deliver the highest standard of care globally.



## EDISC: INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TOWARDS A GLOBAL SPINE CARE WORKFORCE

It is our vision and mission to ensure all spine practitioners an expanding access to collaborative spine care education. The EUROSPINE Diploma in Interprofessional Spine Care (EDISC) continues to serve as a pioneering initiative, advancing interdisciplinary education in spine care worldwide. As an all-virtual programme, EDISC bridges clinical disciplines and global borders—empowering both surgical and non-surgical professionals through evidence-based, collaborative training.

### EDISC's Mission in 2024 Stays Focused On:

- Deliver high-quality, accessible education to spine care professionals from diverse clinical backgrounds.
- Promote interprofessional collaboration in spine rehabilitation.
- Support workforce development through partnerships and inclusive policies, particularly in under-resourced regions.

### 2024 Highlights Progress, Participation & Partnerships:

- Cohort 4 Completion: A Model for Virtual Interprofessional Education. EDISC's fourth cohort (2024) successfully completed seven fully accredited modules through its innovative online format.
- Key outcomes included:
  - 46 participants from 23 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean
  - 15 bursary recipients, demonstrating our commitment to equity and access.
  - Balanced participation from surgical and non-surgical professionals, enhancing interdisciplinary dialogue.
  - High participant satisfaction: an average module rating of 8/10, confirming quality, relevance, and practical impact.
  - Accreditation with the EBAC® (European Board for Accreditation of Continuing Education for Health Professionals) secured for all modules, ensuring international recognition.

With this success, EDISC has solidified its role as a trusted platform for capacity-building in spine care, particularly also in low-to-middle-income contexts.

### Global Engagement Through the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA):

In 2024, EUROSPINE's active engagement with the World Health Organisation's World Rehabilitation Alliance continued to align EDISC with global health priorities. Through collaboration with ministries, NGOs, academia, and multilateral bodies.

EUROSPINE contributed to:

- Workforce development strategies for rehabilitation professionals.
- Knowledge exchange platforms for evidence-based spine care.
- Strategic advocacy to integrate spine care into broader health system strengthening.

### Looking Ahead: Quality, Access, and Innovation in 2025

As we prepare for Cohort 5, launching January–November 2025, EDISC is entering a phase of thoughtful evolution. Our roadmap includes:

- Curriculum Review & Quality Enhancement: We will refine learning outcomes, update clinical content, and optimise delivery formats based on feedback from four cohorts for better learner engagement.

- Sustained Equity Through Bursaries: The bursary programme will continue supporting participants from underrepresented and resource-constrained areas.
- New Faculty Development Tracks: We are planning to develop future instructors with clinical and academic backgrounds.
- Alignment with Global Standards: We are exploring ways to integrate EDISC into recognised regional and global spine care frameworks, enhancing its value for participants.

### **Conclusion: A Growing Community with a Shared Purpose**

The EDISC programme exemplifies EUROSPINE's belief that collaborative, interdisciplinary education is key to improving patient outcomes in spine care. Our commitment to affordability, accessibility, and excellence remains unwavering. In partnership with the WHO, Spine20, funding agencies, and clinical leaders worldwide, we will continue to advance spine rehabilitation education—empowering professionals and transforming care.

EDISC is not just a diploma—it represents a movement for inclusive, evidence-informed, and patient-centred spine care.



## RESEARCH: PROMOTING SPINE RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED INNOVATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES

In 2024, EUROSPINE's research council mission and aim were to **further strengthen the Spine Research System**. The council advanced its core mission of fostering a dynamic, inclusive, and impactful research culture across the spine care continuum. By investing in research education and funding, EUROSPINE continues to elevate the quality and visibility of scholarly work in spine care.

Key priorities included

- Launching the redesigned research education programme.
- Expanding grant support for innovative and early-career research.
- Building capacity through strategic partnerships and transparent processes.
- Cultivating a culture of inquiry that spans disciplines and geographies.
- Hiring a research specialist with a great track record

**An important specific achievement was the successful launch of the redesigned research course.** The much-anticipated blended research course, piloted during EduWeek 2024, marked a significant milestone in EUROSPINE's educational evolution. Guided by a 2023 needs assessment and benchmarking across specialities, the course offers an adaptive and flexible model that combines e-learning, live interaction, and project-based work. This pilot has reaffirmed EUROSPINE's commitment to upskilling practitioners from various backgrounds, enabling greater participation in research from both surgical and non-surgical professionals.

**Our research grant programme sustained its momentum in 2024**, EUROSPINE awarded four competitive research grants to four well selected research projects based on a transparent review process through a multidisciplinary panel. Looking ahead, discussions are underway to reintroduce diversified grant categories, including seed funding, early-career investigator grants, and collaborative international project support.

### Looking Ahead to 2025: EUROSPINE to Further Expand its Research Horizons with the Following Initiatives

- Refining and expanding the research course by integrating feedback from this year's pilot cohort.
- Launching a mentorship initiative to pair early-career researchers with experienced investigators.
- Engaging external partners and sponsors to diversify funding sources and increase grant volume.
- Developing research impact metrics to evaluate how EUROSPINE-funded projects contribute to clinical practice, education, and policy.

### Conclusion: Empowering The Spine Care Community Through Research

EUROSPINE continues to excel in fostering clinically relevant, rigorous, and collaborative research. By offering essential tools, knowledge, and funding, the Research Council is nurturing a new generation of clinician-scholars poised to enhance the future of spine care. Research goes beyond discovery; it aims to improve patient outcomes and advance our profession. EUROSPINE is your platform to achieve these goals.



## SPINE TANGO 2024: SMARTER TOOLS AND BROADER ACCESS

Throughout 2024, Spine Tango has achieved again significant improvements in functionality and accessibility. Key advancements include the expansion of the ePROM feature to include Czech and Portuguese languages, and a new QR code option for direct access to ePROMs on devices, in addition to email or SMS links. The ePROM status overview now features new action buttons for easier tracking and management of patient-reported outcomes.

**Online ad-hoc Statistics Implemented:** One of the most anticipated advancements in 2024 was the integration of Power BI into Spine Tango. This new technology allows users to create custom data analyses and reports, providing greater flexibility in exploring registry data. The ability to export results, comparisons, tables, and images has streamlined the research and reporting process, making Spine Tango an even more valuable tool for data-driven decision-making.

**New Linked Data Export Format:** Another major milestone in data analysis was the introduction of a new data export format that combines all available patient- and clinician-reported forms for a single patient into one data line. This format makes data analysis easier for researchers and clinicians.

**Revision of Surgery Form Data Structure:** In 2024, Spine Tango continued revising the surgery form data structure, which had last been updated in 2017. The aim was to simplify data collection while incorporating modern classification trends for spinal pathologies and treatments. A shorter version of the form was developed, reducing data entry by up to 20% and concentrating on essential information. This revised data structure was implemented in January 2025 with the clear goal to attract more users for our registry.

**Spine Tango Task Force Being Established as Committee:** The Spine Tango Task Force officially became a standing committee within EUROSPINE. This change strengthens the governance and strategic direction of the registry. Reflecting the growing use of Spine Tango in new regions, representatives from Ireland and the Czech Republic have joined the committee, bringing valuable insights to guide its future development.

**Access to Anonymised Data for Research:** Recognising the growing value of Spine Tango's international data set a new policy has been approved enabling all academic institutions to get access to anonymised pooled data for specific statistical and research purposes. This initiative has already resulted in research projects that further strengthens Spine Tango's perception as a leading contributor for epidemiological research.

### Other Important Achievements in 2024 were:

- With improvements in data entry, reporting and analysis, the registry now offers a more streamlined experience and therefore a much even greater value to its participants.
- The Horizon project "Prepare" (The Personalised Rehabilitation via Novel AI Patient Stratification) funded by the EU is a four-year initiative that leverages AI and Spine Tango data to enhance patient outcome prediction and rehabilitation strategies in spine care and beyond. EUROSPINE is playing a pivotal role by providing anonymised medical data from Spine Tango to the development of AI-driven decision support tools. These tools will assist clinicians in navigating treatment options, managing patient expectations, and improving shared decision-making.

### Launching the Spine Atlas initiative – EUROSPINE strongly contributing to a new global vision for spine care

The Spine Atlas Initiative, launched in 2024, aims to transform global spine care by mapping spine pathologies, treatment variations, and outcomes. By leveraging data from Spine Tango and various international registries, it provides invaluable insights into real-world spine care.

- This collaborative effort focuses on collecting and analysing anonymised, high-quality clinical data to:
  - Identify global trends in spine surgery and non-surgical treatments.
  - Compare patient populations, outcomes, and approaches across countries.
  - Support evidence-based decision-making for clinicians and policymakers.

The initial focus of the initiative is degenerative lumbar spondylolisthesis (LDS), with data collection commencing in February 2025. Over 150 hospitals in 50 countries have already signed up, marking this as a truly global effort. All spine professionals are invited to become part of this pivotal epidemiological effort - contribute to advancing spine care globally while gaining visibility, research opportunities, and valuable benchmarking insights!



## OUR MEMBERS ARE THE FUTURE OF SPINE CARE A COMMUNITY APPROACH NOT ONLY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

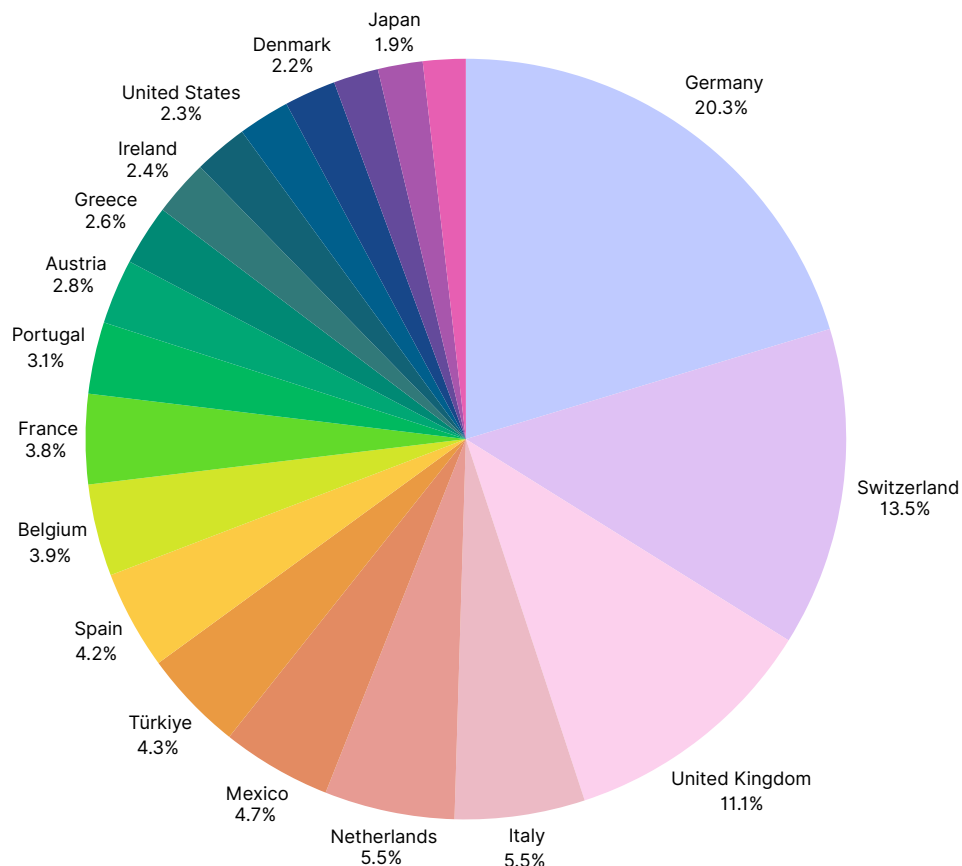
The Community and Leadership Council was relaunched in July 2024, evolving from the Membership Council. Its primary focus on member recruitment and retention has expanded to include five Task Forces: Mentorship, Leadership, Equity and Diversity (the former Themis Programme), Early Career Members, and Honours and Heritage. The council has had a successful year, with its agile structure prioritising membership activities within EUROSPINE's strategic initiatives.

In 2024, the Community and Leadership Council set forth the following goals:

- Enhance the attractiveness, loyalty, and inclusivity of membership
- Achieve 30% diversity in membership
- Implement a new database to streamline membership applications and renewals
- Recruit mentors and early career mentees, and launch a pilot mentoring programme
- Initiate the development of a leadership programme and early career members' network

The introduction of the new database has revolutionised our membership processes, allowing for timely and accurate reporting of membership data. We are pleased to welcome 352 new members from 53 different countries, with significant growth among early career members. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support and dedication shown by our EUROSPINE members who promptly renew their membership fees. Our efforts to encourage membership retention have proven successful and have contributed to an overall increase in our membership base. We recognise that we still have work to do to achieve our 30% diversity goal and are grateful for the diligent efforts of the Themis Task Force in promoting equity and diversity within the spine pathway.

### Membership Status as of 31 December 2024



EUROSPINE benefits from strong member growth and loyalty, offering a range of advantages such as multiprofessional educational opportunities, free access to the Spine Tango registry, reduced publication fees for the Brain and Spine Journal (currently boasting a steadily increasing impact factor of 1.9), high-quality e-learning resources, networking events, and scientific meetings that feature the latest in research and clinical practice.

The EUROSPINE 2024 Annual Meeting in Vienna offered a comprehensive scientific programme, including keynote presentations, cutting-edge research, innovations in practice, and the debut of three masterclasses on surgical techniques and rehabilitation, alongside tailored events for members.

### **Rising High in 2025: EUROSPINE's Vision for Global Excellence in Spine Care**

EUROSPINE thrives thanks to the energy and engagement of our members, aiming to attract diverse professionals along the spine pathway and nurture future leaders in spine care. With the removal of the "corresponding member" category, we now welcome global members. As a society, EUROSPINE stays strongly committed to shaping leadership and delivering exceptional spine care worldwide.



## EUROPEAN SPINE SOCIETIES ADVISORY BOARD (EUSSAB) – OUR PLATFORM FOR NATIONAL SPINE SOCIETIES

EuSSAB serves as the advisory platform for EUROSPINE's institutional members, facilitating collaboration among Europe's national spine societies. Currently, 28 societies from 26 countries are involved, all dedicated to shared principles and cooperation. The committee also acts as a Council Group, representing national interests within the EUROSPINE Executive Committee to influence the organisation's overall direction.



### Ongoing Goals and Communication:

We are actively working toward the following objectives:

- Further development of the award-winning lecture of the National Spine Societies.
- Finalisation and implementation of the revised Rules of Cooperation.
- Support for EUROSPINE initiatives such as Spine Tango, Brain & Spine Journal, and Themis.
- Strengthening the relationship with EuSSAB National Representatives by establishing a joint dinner at the Annual Meeting following the National Representatives Meeting.
- Regular publication of two newsletters and hosting of two open update calls each year.

EuSSAB remains a reliable link between national societies and EUROSPINE, supporting multiple committees and task forces. We encourage societies to fully utilise this platform for addressing local concerns, accessing registry tools, and contributing to as well as benefiting from EUROSPINE activities.

### 2024 Highlights:

- In 2024, we enhanced continuity, clarity, and visibility across our activities. The Rules of Cooperation were revised and formally agreed upon by the Executive Committee during the 2025 Annual Meeting. We maintained our twice-yearly open update calls on EUROSPINE initiatives, with steady participation from 10 to 15 national societies.
- The Award-Winning National Spine Society Lecture was successfully moved to a morning slot at the Annual Meeting in Vienna, reflecting its increased importance and strong engagement in submissions.
- We also held our annual internal meeting for national representatives, introducing Jarkko Halme as the new Council Chair and thanking Johan Van Lerbeirghe for his dedication. This meeting fostered valuable discussions and networking opportunities during an informal dinner.

### Outlook 2025: Expanding Representation and Strengthening Connections within EUROSPINE

In 2025, we will welcome two new Council members to enhance our expertise and representation. We plan to revise our open update calls by incorporating clinical topics alongside EUROSPINE updates and extend invitations more widely within each society to encourage broader participation. Additionally, we will launch the "Winners in Spine" initiative, where the Best of Show Award winner and the EuSSAB National Award recipient from the Annual Meeting will attend a national society meeting, representing EUROSPINE with the EuSSAB Council Chair. This initiative aims to increase visibility and strengthen connections with member societies.

## REHABILITATION COUNCIL: ADVANCING REHABILITATION FOR SPINE HEALTH - PROMOTING EXCELLENCE, EQUITY AND ACCESS

2024 was a year of consolidation and strategic growth in rehabilitation, EUROSPINE reaffirmed its dedication to improving outcomes for patients with spine-related disabilities through evidence-based, interprofessional rehabilitation. As a leading platform for spine care professionals, EUROSPINE has incorporated rehabilitation into its strategic focus areas, including education, quality assurance, patient engagement, and global advocacy. These initiatives reflect EUROSPINE's vision for a comprehensive, patient-centred spine care model that prioritises prevention, early intervention, and sustainable rehabilitation at all care levels.

### 2024 Highlights and Achievements:

- Educational Activities in Rehabilitation: Spine Tuesday Rehabilitation Webinars - The 2024 Spine Tuesday series continued to promote interprofessional exchange. Three webinars focused on evidence-informed rehabilitation topics: Evidence-based Diagnosis and Rehabilitation of Cervicogenic Headache / Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) / The Role of Injections in the Management of Non-Radicular Axial Low Back Pain. Together, these sessions attracted over 500 global participants, highlighting the strong demand for accessible rehabilitation education.
- The 2024 EDISC Bursary Programme: Welcomed 15 bursary recipients from 13 low- to middle-income countries, reinforcing EUROSPINE's commitment to equitable education access. This fully virtual, interprofessional programme allowed clinicians from underserved regions to develop their skills and engage with a global community of practice.

### 2024 Special Focus on Patient Engagement and Advocacy:

- Patient Line: Patient Line offers multilingual resources on non-operative treatments, pain management, and self-guided rehabilitation, keeping patients well-informed in their care. EUROSPINE recently launched two public webinar titled "Back Pain Solutions: Understanding Your Treatment Path and Living with Scoliosis," which covers common back pain causes, treatment options (both surgical and non-surgical), and long-term management strategies. The aim is to empower patients with knowledge to make informed decisions about their care and enhance their spine health journey.
- Spine20 Summit, Rio de Janeiro: EUROSPINE played a pivotal role in the 2024 Spine20 Summit, themed "Spinal Disability: Social Inclusion as a Key to Prevention and Management." EUROSPINE co-led sessions on rehabilitation policy and standardised education. Lisa Roberts and Pierre Côté moderated working groups, and EUROSPINE delegates contributed to shaping Spine20's G20 recommendations regarding national spine care and rehabilitation integration.
- WHO World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA): EUROSPINE deepened its engagement in the WRA, contributing to the Workforce Workstream. The society actively supported campaigns advocating for:
  - Investment in rehabilitation training globally
  - Recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of the rehabilitation workforce
  - Integration of rehabilitation professionals across various care settings
- This collaboration continues to position EUROSPINE as a policy leader in global rehabilitation advocacy.

**Quality Assurance and Best Practices:** Besides Spine Tango our Spine Centres of Excellence (SSCoE) programme is part of our quality assurance activities. By the end of 2024, more than 50 centres were accredited as SSCoEs. Newly accredited centres enhanced their conservative care reporting by capturing outcomes through Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs). This data collection aligns with best practices in integrated spine care, defining excellence in real-world rehabilitation delivery.

## Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

### EUROSPINE Plans to Build on its Strong Foundation with the Following Key Priorities:

- Launching a rehabilitation-focused Spine Tango module tailored to capture data on functional outcomes, return-to-work rates, and patient-reported recovery.
- Co-developing a Joint Spine20-WHO White Paper on the role of rehabilitation in global spine health systems.
- Further expanding the EDISC programme to include live virtual labs and case-based interprofessional panels.
- Supporting the local adaptation of Patient Line in more languages to enhance reach and cultural relevance.

### Conclusion: Empowering Spine Rehabilitation for a Healthier Future

In 2024, EUROSPINE further strengthened its position as a global leader in spine rehabilitation with a focus on inclusive education, patient-centred resources, and effective advocacy. This commitment highlights the society's dedication to alleviating the burden of spinal disorders through a multidisciplinary approach. As health systems worldwide increasingly value rehabilitation, EUROSPINE is set to spearhead this transformation.

## EUROSPINE PATIENT LINE: EXPANDING ACCESS TO SPINE HEALTH EDUCATION

The EUROSPINE Patient Line Committee plays a key role in educating patients about spinal conditions, preventive strategies, and treatment options. Committed to enhancing understanding and engagement, the committee continued to expand its multilingual reach and digital presence in 2024 while launching a new series of live patient webinars.

### Major Focus for 2024:

In 2024, the Patient Line Committee concentrated on several key areas strongly focusing on its mission:

- **Launch of Patient Webinar Series:** For the first time, Patient Line introduced a dedicated series of live webinars for patients:
  - *Living with Scoliosis:* Chaired by Peter Ferlic, this session featured Nikos Karavidas discussing the impact of diagnosis, Ahmet Alanay covering treatment options, and Javier Pizones addressing life after surgery.
  - *Back Pain Solutions – Understanding Your Treatment Path:* Also chaired by Peter Ferlic, with Lisa Roberts presenting conservative treatment options and Yann-Philippe Charles outlining surgical pathways.
- **Finalisation of Website Migration:** The Patient Line website is now fully functional in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. This milestone significantly improves access to high-quality information for patients across Europe.
- **New Articles and Insights:** The website was enriched with updates from the Spine Tuesday webinars, including 'Insights from a webinar on Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)' and 'Evidence-based approaches to diagnosing and managing cervicogenic headache.'
- **Session at EUROSPINE 2024 Annual Meeting:** During the EUROSPINE Annual Meeting in Vienna, Patient Line hosted a dedicated session titled "Achieving Satisfaction for Patients and Surgeons in Spinal Surgery: The Role of Expectations on Outcome," presented by Peter Ferlic and Oge Swaby.

## **Outlook and Plan for 2025:**

In 2025, Patient Line will enhance its educational initiatives with webinars scheduled for key awareness months: Osteoporosis Awareness Month in May, Scoliosis Awareness Month in June, and World Spine Day in October. Additionally, a dedicated session will occur at the EUROSPINE 2025 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen.

The Patient Line website provides essential resources for both patients and healthcare professionals, promoting its use in patient education and shared decision-making. Patient Line is dedicated to empowering individuals through accessible, multilingual education, effectively bridging the gap between clinical expertise and everyday understanding.

## **BRAIN AND SPINE JOURNAL: RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVING AN IMPACT FACTOR**

### **Background/History:**

In just three years since its launch, Brain and Spine with its Editors-in- Chief Frank Kandziora and Wilco Peul has become a key scientific journal established by EUROSPINE and EANS. As the official journal of these organisations, it offers a peer-reviewed, open-access platform focusing on all aspects of the nervous system and axial skeleton.

Founded in late 2020, Brain and Spine arose from a collaboration between EUROSPINE and EANS under the presidency of Everard Munting (EUROSPINE) and Karl Schaller (EANS), driven by a need for an open-access format after dissatisfaction with their former publisher. The journal is co-owned by both societies and partnered with Elsevier, signing a contract on 10 April 2021.

### **Impressive Achievements:**

Officially open for submissions from 7 July 2021, it has published significant works, including its inaugural research paper on 6 August. The journal's Editorial Board features leading experts worldwide, and it has achieved notable milestones, including indexation in DOAJ, Google Scholar, and PubMed Central, as well as Scopus and the Web of Science.

Most impressively, Brain and Spine received an impact factor of 1.9 by Clarivate on 20 June 2024, after only 3 years of work and with ongoing efforts to enhance this further.

### **Ongoing Focus:**

In the biomedical arena of structural brain and spinal disorders Brain and Spine offers authors of all disciplines with brain and spine specialisation, the possibility to submit manuscripts, describing original scientific studies and systematic reviews with the goal to add value to brain and spine patients care in near future. Additionally, the journal welcomes high-quality manuscripts across diverse areas, including basic molecular science, clinical epidemiology, and public health. More specifically, the journal publishes papers that emphasise the fast-growing biomedical fields of genomics, molecular sciences, biomechanical engineering, computer navigation and 3-D reconstruction techniques, experimental clinical research, as well as papers from the growing public health fields of medical decision analysis, psychology, bio-ethics and prediction modelling at a population level.

As we continue to build our scientific reputation, we strive for even higher scientific goals in the future and will ensure that we further increase our 'impact factor' in the coming years.

We express our gratitude to our societies, dedicated staff, Editorial Management Team at Elsevier, Editorial Board, Reviewers, and especially the authors for their valuable and outstanding contributions.

## FOCUSED INITIATIVES: ADVANCING MARKETING, COMMUNICATION, AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, EUROSPINE has made notable strides in marketing and communications, focusing on fostering relationships within our community. We aim to promote genuine connections, visibility, and dialogue across all channels, rather than simply delivering information.

### Shifting from Broadcast to Engagement:

Our approach to communication centres on the idea that social media is an interactive space. On LinkedIn, our fastest-growing platform, actions like liking, commenting, and sharing significantly boost our visibility and influence. These interactions not only support our messaging but also shape the voice of the EUROSPINE community. We encourage members, officers, and partners to actively engage by interacting with posts, participating in discussions, and sharing relevant content to foster a vibrant, interconnected network.

**From the President's Desk—A Direct Line to Leadership:** This year, the From the President's Desk video series has been a key initiative, featuring monthly updates from EUROSPINE President Dominique Rothenfluh. These brief videos provide personal reflections, strategic updates, and notable developments, effectively connecting leadership with our community and fostering meaningful engagement.

**Community Building in Focus:** Furthermore, we launched a dedicated LinkedIn group for Early Career Professionals, providing a tailored space for the next generation of spine specialists to connect and grow. We also welcomed Jana Lugthart to the EUROSPINE team, where she focuses on social media and engagement to help build a more connected online community.

**Strengthening Digital Foundations:** Following the relaunch of our website in 2023, we continued to enhance our digital platforms in 2024 to improve navigation, integrate learning opportunities, and provide clear value to both members and visitors.

**Looking Ahead:** As our communication evolves, one principle is clear, we are stronger when we engage with our community rather than just addressing it. We offer a platform for interaction, where your voice—whether through comments, reposts, or discussions—plays a vital role in shaping EUROSPINE's image in the spine care landscape.

Together, we are creating a more collaborative, inclusive, and visible future for our society.



## TREASURER'S STATEMENT: FINANCIAL YEAR 2024 DRIVEN BY STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN CORE SERVICES AND COMPETENCIES

Since last year, we have made detailed financial figures available exclusively to our members via the EUROSPINE website's member section.

As in previous years, EUROSPINE remains committed to concluding each financial year with at least a break-even result, even while planning significant investments. In 2024, we successfully achieved this ambitious target once again, reporting a modest profit, although it was notably lower than that of 2023.

The 2024 financial year presented increasing challenges as the landscape surrounding our strategic priorities and mission-critical activities—such as the Annual Meeting, EduWeek, Spine Tango Registry & Research, and our new “Community and Leadership” initiative—continues to evolve rapidly. EUROSPINE operates in a competitive and saturated environment, where numerous educational and scientific events vie for the limited budgets and time of hospitals, universities, and individual professionals.

Nevertheless, EUROSPINE is well-prepared to confront these challenges. We are actively investing in the ongoing enhancement of our core offerings and are proactively adapting to the expectations of younger generations. This includes expanding our digital offerings, elevating the quality of our two flagship in-person events, and implementing a more targeted, international marketing approach that has begun to attract attention beyond Europe.

A positive takeaway from 2024 is that our previous efforts have begun to bear fruit: income from all core activities increased. However, the imperative for continued investment has led to expenses growing at a faster rate. Key cost drivers included the expansion of our internal team to bolster in-house competencies, increased IT spending to improve operational efficiency, and targeted investments in international collaborations and digital platforms. Furthermore, we have directed additional resources towards enhancing our two flagship events—the Annual Meeting and EduWeek—and supporting the new Community and Leadership task force, which we are confident will deliver long-term value.

Our balance sheet remains robust, particularly regarding equity and cash position, although we note that our equity has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Overall, the Executive Committee is proud of EUROSPINE's financial performance in 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our officers, staff, members, stakeholders, and industry partners for their invaluable contributions to this success. Looking ahead to 2025, we remain steadfastly committed to our principle of achieving at least a break-even result annually, while advancing our vision to be the driving force and preferred partner for spinal care in both Europe and beyond.



# TREUHAND VON FLÜE AG

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

Zug, July 31, 2025

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, 2024.

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



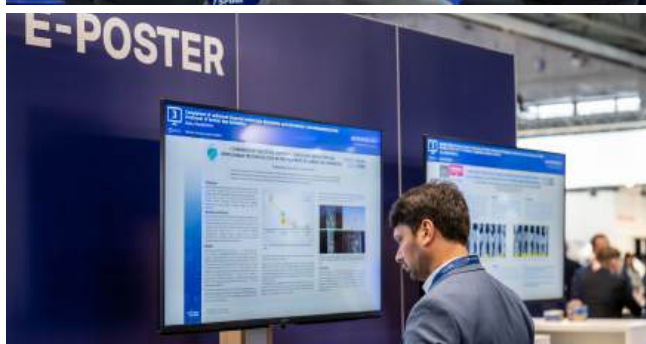
G. Biotti  
auditor in charge  
licensed audit expert

**Enclosures:**

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

## EUROSPINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 | MINUTES

The minutes from the General Assembly are exclusively accessible to members in the dedicated member section of the EUROSPINE website.



## COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE MEMBERS 2024

### Executive Committee

Ahmet Alanay, Turkey – President  
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 Marisa Gandia Gonzalez, Spain – Member  
 Frank Kandziora, Germany – Member

### Brain & Spine Journal

Frank Kandziora, Germany – Editor-in-Chief  
 Wilco Peul, Netherlands – Editor-in-Chief





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