

Exploring Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the WHO Resolution on Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems in Switzerland: Swiss Stakeholder Perspectives

Background: The increasing worldwide demand for rehabilitation services is driven by the expanding global population, the growing number of elderly people, and the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases. Consequently, there is a rising population in need of rehabilitation care, positioning rehabilitation as a pivotal health strategy for the 21st century. In Switzerland, one-third of the population is living with non-communicable diseases, and 19% are over the age of 64, placing a significant burden on the healthcare system. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the "Rehabilitation 2030" initiative, emphasizing the need to strengthen health systems and calls on all stakeholders to work together globally to improve rehabilitation. Additionally, the World Health Assembly endorsed a Resolution on rehabilitation, urging member states to enhance rehabilitation through nine key areas of action.

Objective: To gather the perspectives of Swiss rehabilitation stakeholders on the relevance of the WHO Resolution and to identify and summarise challenges and opportunities for adapting the Resolution in Switzerland.

Methods: A qualitative, cross-sectional, online survey distributed to Swiss rehabilitation stakeholders via e-mail, with purposive sample and further snowball dissemination. To ensure a representative sample, quotas are set for each professional group in proportion to the number of rehabilitation clinics in Switzerland, categorised by language region. In exploring the survey responses in depth and extracting meaningful themes, a qualitative thematic analysis will be used.

Results and Conclusion: The survey answers will be collected from November 2023 to mid of February 2023. Preliminary results and conclusions can be presented at the Research Seminar.