



# Swiss Paraplegic Group 2022 annual report

Short version

**Our vision is a world  
where people with  
a spinal cord injury lead  
independent lives in  
the best possible health.**

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## 2022 in figures

**1.9 million**

members make up the Benefactors' Association of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation.

**30.6 million**

Swiss francs were reported as annual loss.

**91.3 million**

Swiss francs were received in membership fees and income from donations.

**2033**

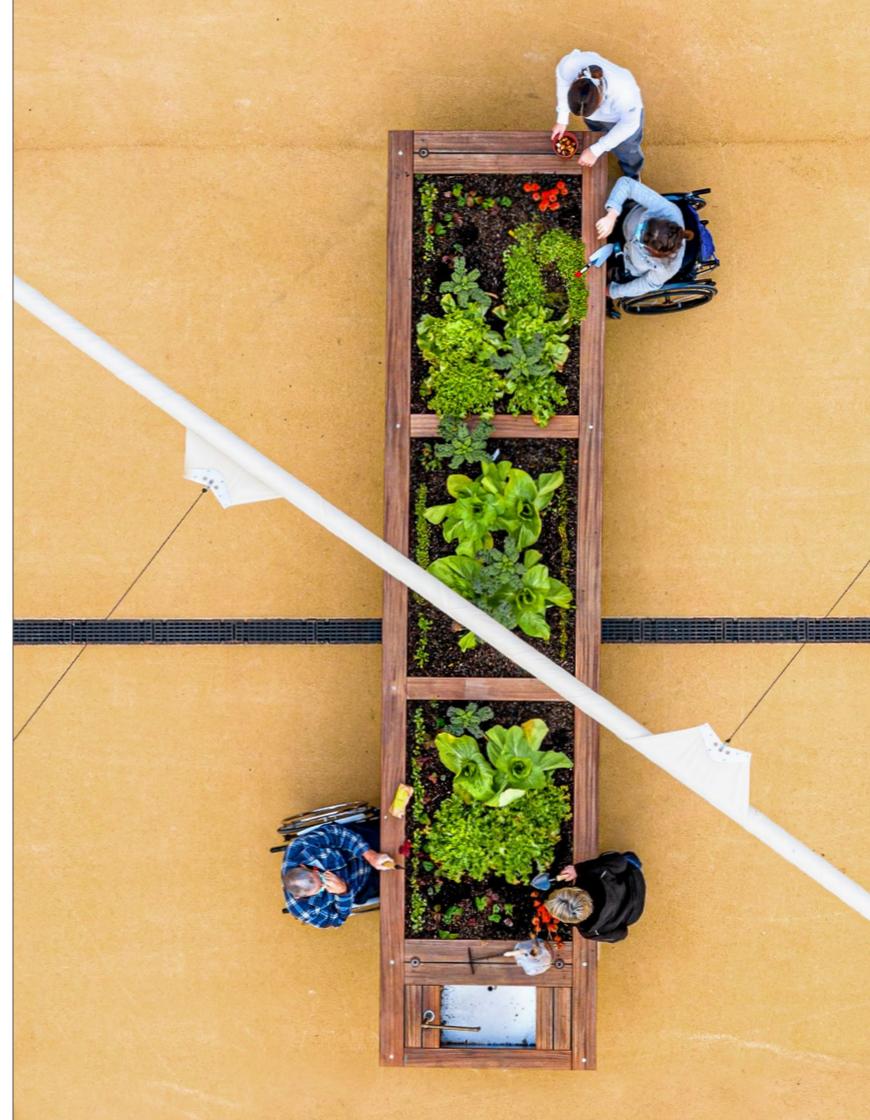
employees work for the Swiss Paraplegic Group.

**30.4 million**

Swiss francs went directly to people with a spinal cord injury in the form of benefactor benefits and direct aid.

**1008**

people with a spinal cord injury underwent inpatient treatment in the Swiss Paraplegic Centre.



## Together for people and the environment

In his vision, founder Guido A. Zäch already stated the aim of having a sustainable effect in all aspects of life. In 2022, the Swiss Paraplegic Group introduced a framework for its sustainability endeavours. With a new strategy and a focus on effective measures, it has achieved continuous improvement in terms of important sustainability topics.



“We provide highly competent and passionate support for people with a spinal cord injury.”

## Using the unforeseen as an opportunity

### Dear Reader

We have seen how the world has changed in unexpected and unpredictable ways. As a solidarity network, we were profoundly affected by the situation of refugees with a spinal cord injury in Ukraine. We organised professional care and medical support for these people without red tape at the Polish-Ukrainian border. The refugees were extremely grateful.

We were able to see opportunities as well as challenges in the energy shortages, lack of specialists, financial crisis and regulations. The continuing demand for our offers and the high image value of the Swiss Paraplegic Group in 2022 demonstrated that we made the most of those opportunities.

Nothing has changed in the way that we do everything we can to provide highly competent and passionate support for people with a spinal cord injury. Over the past year we could rely on employees who once again achieved excellence. We were able to count on long-standing and more than 15,000 new benefactors who supported our solidarity network.

The world is not standing still. I would like to offer you my sincere thanks for supporting us and for helping us to provide hope and strength for people with a spinal cord injury.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Hanselmann'.

Heidi Hanselmann  
President of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation



“The Foundation stepped in with advance payments where insurance companies had not yet provided a commitment to cover costs. This was a huge relief for me and allowed me to achieve greater independence more quickly.”

Marco Michel is a recipient of direct aid



Swiss  
Paraplegic  
Foundation

With its presence at the exhibition in Zug, the **Swiss Paraplegic Foundation** came into contact with thousands of visitors. The charity from Nottwil organised professional nursing and medical care for war refugees with a spinal cord injury at the Ukrainian border. Two proposals, supported by the Paraplegic Foundation, for an improved insurance situation in later life were accepted by a large majority in the Swiss National Council. The good annual profit in terms of fundraising proves that the Swiss population consistently stands up for people with a spinal cord injury.



Watch the testimonial

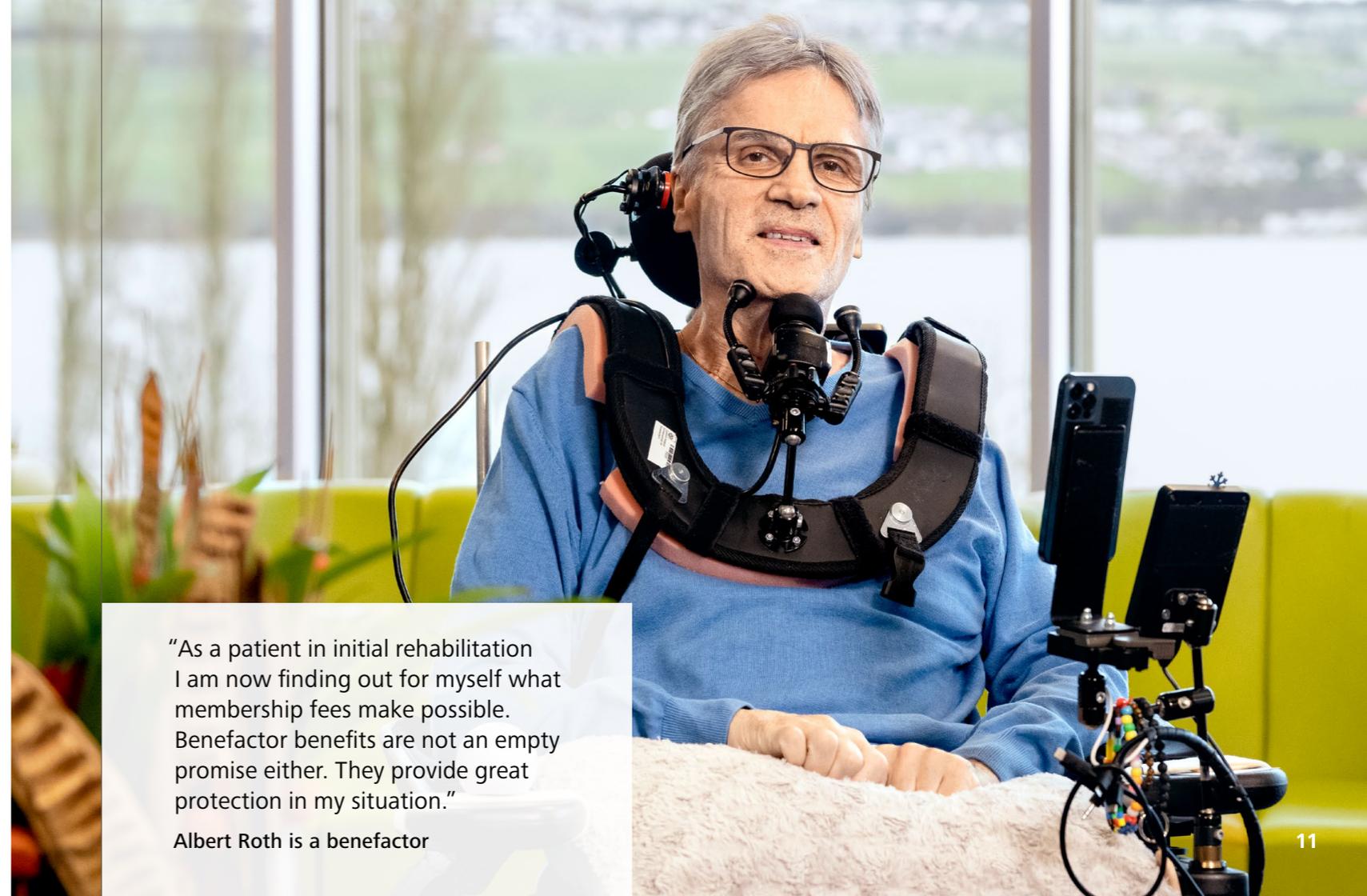


Swiss  
Paraplegic  
Foundation  
Benefactors' Association

The **Benefactors' Association of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation** achieved its membership growth target. More than 10,400 people decided to take out permanent life membership in 2022. Thanks to its strong basis of 1.9 million members, the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation is the largest national charity for people with a spinal cord injury. Twenty-nine members who had an accident received benefactor benefits in the reporting year.

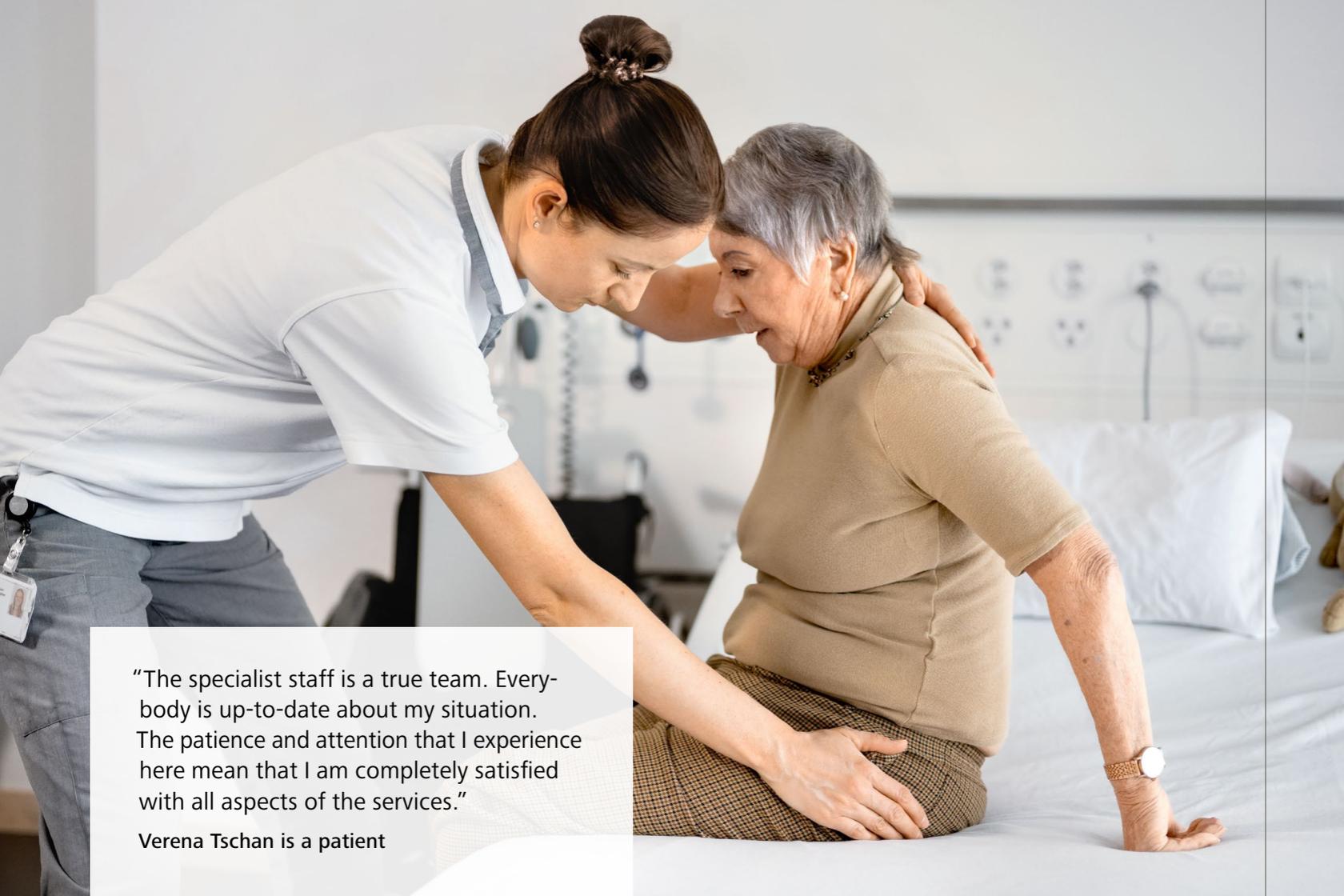


Watch the testimonial



“As a patient in initial rehabilitation I am now finding out for myself what membership fees make possible. Benefactor benefits are not an empty promise either. They provide great protection in my situation.”

Albert Roth is a benefactor



“The specialist staff is a true team. Everybody is up-to-date about my situation. The patience and attention that I experience here mean that I am completely satisfied with all aspects of the services.”

Verena Tschan is a patient



The **Swiss Paraplegic Centre** reported more than one thousand inpatient stays for patients with a spinal cord injury. The specialist area of spinal surgery logged a record number of patient registrations. Further training in tetra hand surgery on the Nottwil Campus was met with great professional interest around the world. Sports Medicine Nottwil looked after more club athletes than ever before. Despite a lack of specialists and a high level of bed utilisation, the services remained reliably professional for patients. Additional company benefits for nursing staff increased employer attractiveness for the Paraplegic Centre.



Watch the testimonial



**Swiss Paraplegic Research** carried out a further follow-up study on people with a spinal cord injury. This means they are the only institution in the world with data spanning ten years. The research results are the foundation for continuous improvement of care for people with a spinal cord injury from all areas of life. The Paraplegic Research team received national and international recognition for its comprehensive rehabilitation research. Young scientists were given targeted support in joint programmes with the University of Lucerne.



Watch the testimonial



"I like the supervision of my thesis, the international aspects, and the working environment. Research is also practical here. Every day I see what we can do for wheelchair users."

Ana Lucia Oña Macías is a PhD student

“Every year I look forward to the new holiday catalogue. The group trips are sociable and perfectly organised. The specific services with the 1:1 care are what make the holiday possible for me in the first place.”

Daniel Galliker is a member



The **Swiss Paraplegics Association** registered numerous bookings by their members for the trips, courses and events that are now possible again. There was a continued increase in advice sessions for difficult life and legal issues. The new website of the Paraplegics Association is impressive with its high level of functionality and appealing design. At a political level, the umbrella organisation for spinal cord injuries and its members advocated for the rights of people with a disability.



Watch the testimonial

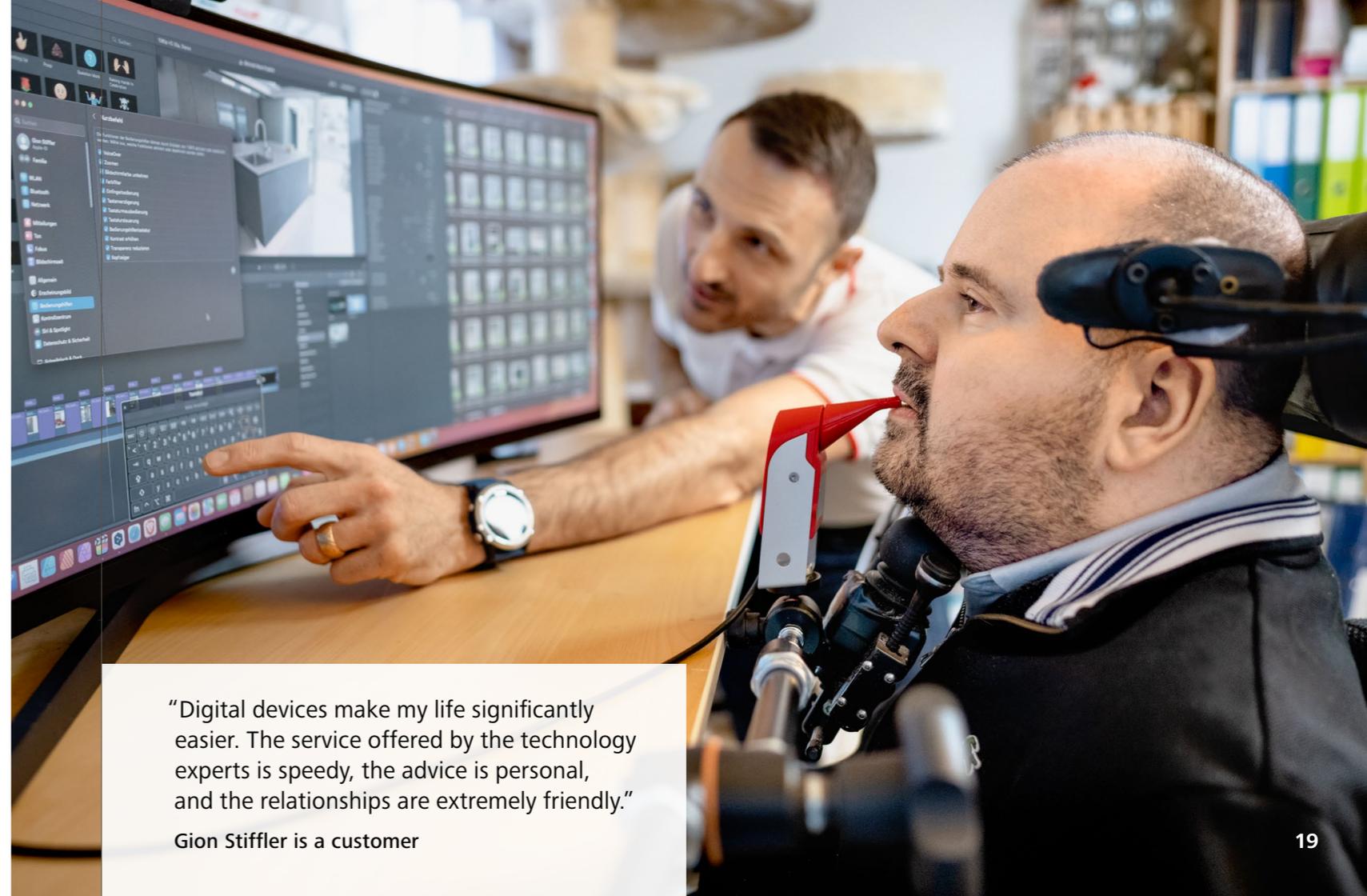


we integrate. active.

**Active Communication** enjoyed a high level of demand for its fittings and in its online shop, and expanded digitisation in these areas. At the same time, the team strengthened its advisory competence for personal customer care. With national and international events, the expert for digital assistive technology brought together a wide audience from the areas of social and health care, universities and people living with a spinal cord injury. There are an increasing number of specialist presentations at sector-relevant universities each year.

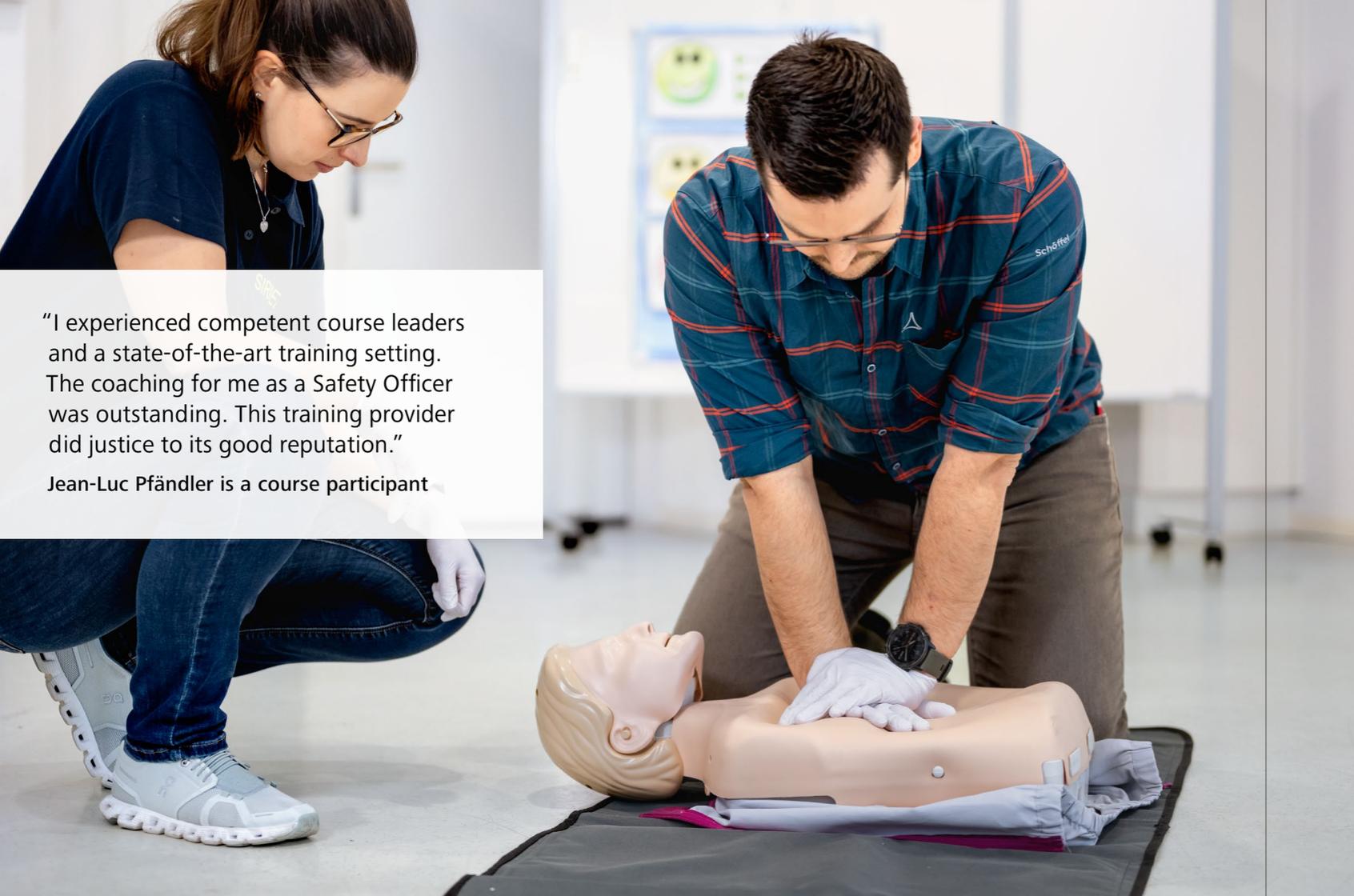


Watch the testimonial



“Digital devices make my life significantly easier. The service offered by the technology experts is speedy, the advice is personal, and the relationships are extremely friendly.”

Gion Stiffler is a customer



"I experienced competent course leaders and a state-of-the-art training setting. The coaching for me as a Safety Officer was outstanding. This training provider did justice to its good reputation."

Jean-Luc Pfändler is a course participant

**SIRMED**

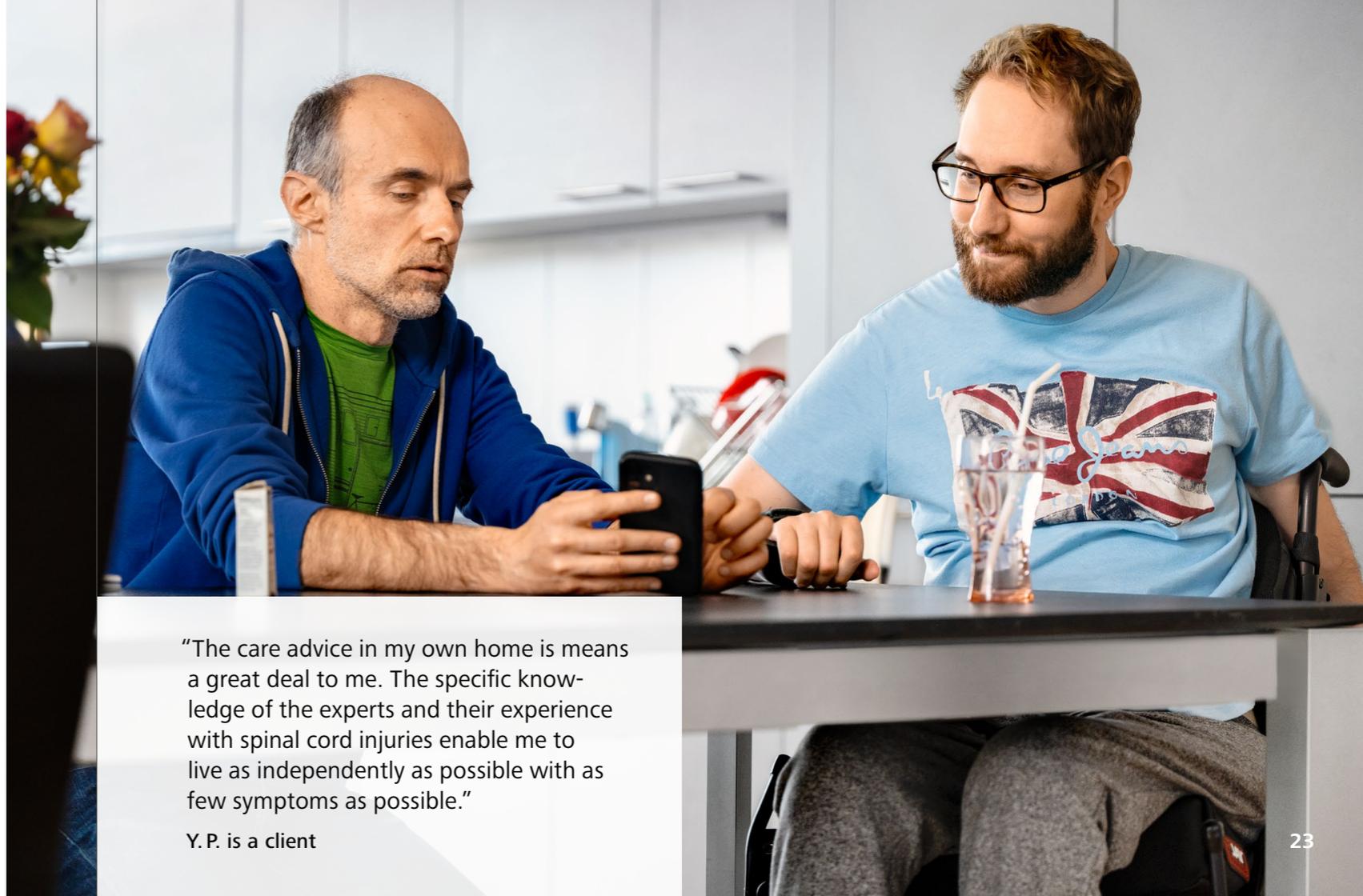
Swiss Institute of Emergency Medicine

The **Swiss Institute of Emergency Medicine SIRMED** celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special exhibition on the Nottwil Campus. More people than ever before took part in the training courses Education, by SIRMED, including new Rega emergency doctors. As an example of the training courses on offer, the First Responder Symposium is Switzerland's largest continuing education event for first responders and company emergency response officers. SIRMED as a training provider was also given the mandate of setting up a digital learning environment for the Swiss Paraplegic Group.



Watch the testimonial

**ParaHelp** introduced the latest module of its care model in the supervised shared apartment for wheelchair users. Specialists from ParaHelp took on responsibility for care management in the supervised holiday weeks for people with a high level of paralysis. The successful cooperation of many years between Spitex and ParaHelp was awarded Spitex Switzerland membership. ParaHelp for the first time looked after more than a thousand clients in their own homes all over Switzerland.



“The care advice in my own home is means a great deal to me. The specific knowledge of the experts and their experience with spinal cord injuries enable me to live as independently as possible with as few symptoms as possible.”

Y. P. is a client



“My orthopaedic technician is tenacious and extremely creative when looking for the best solution. We work meticulously until my orthoses are perfectly adjusted and able to move smoothly.”

Marie-Sophie Mouget is a customer



**Orthotec** achieved all its corporate goals in a difficult economic environment. Implementing the new Medical Device Regulation required one hundred per cent commitment. A new ERP system facilitated the processing of more than 26,000 orders a year. Customers recommended Orthotec to others to a great extent. Just one year after the launch of the world’s fastest racing wheelchair, Orthotec revealed the prototype of an innovative hand mountain bike.



Watch the testimonial

The **Hotel & Conference Center Sempachersee** once again welcomed increased numbers of groups of international guests. Various congresses and symposia were held for established and new customers and were, in part, extremely well attended. Thanks to a new reservation system, all services can be booked directly online from around the world. Two independently run events brought an award-winning chef and countless gamers to the Nottwil Campus. The culinary establishment specifically promotes the occupational health of its specialists.



Watch the testimonial

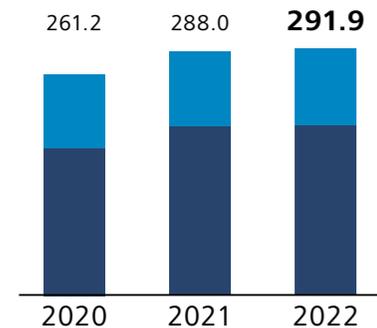


“The rooms, infrastructure and restaurants were ideal for our large-scale event. The interplay of all the services and the work of the staff exceeded my expectations.”

Sascha Komaromy is an event organiser

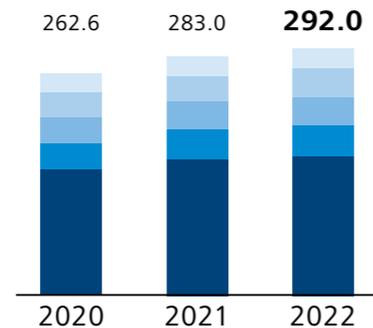
## Key financial figures

Operating profit (in CHF million)



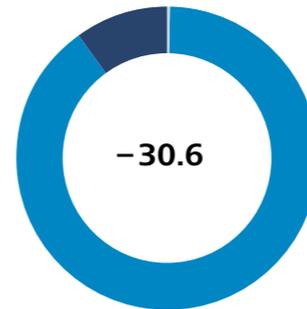
- 91.3  
Income from members and fundraising
- 200.6  
Income from services, sales, catering, hotel trade, and changes in inventory/internal labour

Operating expenses (in CHF million)



- 23.1  
Depreciation and value adjustments
- 33.4  
Direct aid, benefactor benefits and research contributions
- 33.9  
Other operational expenses
- 36.7  
Cost of material and services
- 164.9  
Personnel expenses

Profit/loss for the year (in CHF million)



- +0  
EBIT/Operating income
- 27.6  
Change in fund capital
- 3  
Financial result and non-operating income relating to other periods

## Annual reports

The activities of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, its subsidiaries, and closely related organisations are documented in detail in the Swiss Paraplegic Group's online annual report. The online annual report is published in German and French. The German online version is legally binding. This printed short version provides a compact summary of the main information and figures from the reporting year.



Comprehensive on-line annual report  
in German



Comprehensive on-line annual report  
in French

**Annual report of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation,  
its subsidiaries, and closely related organisations**

### **Editor**

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Nottwil

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Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Corporate Communications  
Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Finance and Controlling

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Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, Corporate Communications

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The printed short version will be published in English, French, German, and Italian; the German version is legally binding.

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In the 2022 annual report, the Swiss Paraplegic Group has given a voice to its beneficiaries.

[report.paraplegie.ch/2022/de](https://report.paraplegie.ch/2022/de)

**Swiss Paraplegic Foundation**

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