



**ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY
FORUM**

Session 3.1: 10.20 am / 2.00 pm The Swiss Paraplegic Foundation Group

Pius Bernet

**Director of SSBL (Foundation of severely handicapped people Lucerne)
Former CFO of the Swiss Paraplegic Group
Chairman of Active Communication Ltd**



- 1. THE SWISS PARAPLEGIC FOUNDATION GROUP**
- 2. ACTIVE COMMUNICATION AS THE
MAIN SOLUTION PROVIDER IN SWITZERLAND**

Introduction to the Swiss Paraplegic Group



Milestones of a Pioneering Project

History

50 years ago there was

- **No** holistic medicine for paraplegics
- **No** holistic rehabilitation
- **No** reintegration into working life and daily routine

The fate of paraplegics:

- ▶ Up to three years in hospital
- ▶ Residential home for patients with disabilities
- ▶ Residential home for the elderly



Milestones of a Pioneering Project

Almost 45 years of development

- 1975** Foundation of the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPF)
- 1978** Foundation of the Benefactors' Association (BA)
- 1980** Foundation of Swiss Paraplegic Association (SPA)
- 1990** Opening of the clinic Swiss Paraplegic Centre (SPC)
- 2000** Foundation of the Swiss Paraplegic Research (SPR)
- 2018** Merger with FST (Foundation pour les téléthèses)
Active Communication joins SPG
- 2019** Large hospital extension and opening
of the Visitor Centre ParaForum



Reintegration – Not Pension

Objectives of holistic rehabilitation

- Mobility and everyday independence
- Equal opportunities and self-determination
- Well-being and quality of life
- Reintegration into society
- Return to professional career



Today: A Unique Network of Services

Swiss Paraplegic Group (SPG)

The SPG's staff of over 1,700 employees supports a network of holistic rehabilitation services for paraplegics – the only network of this kind anywhere in the world.

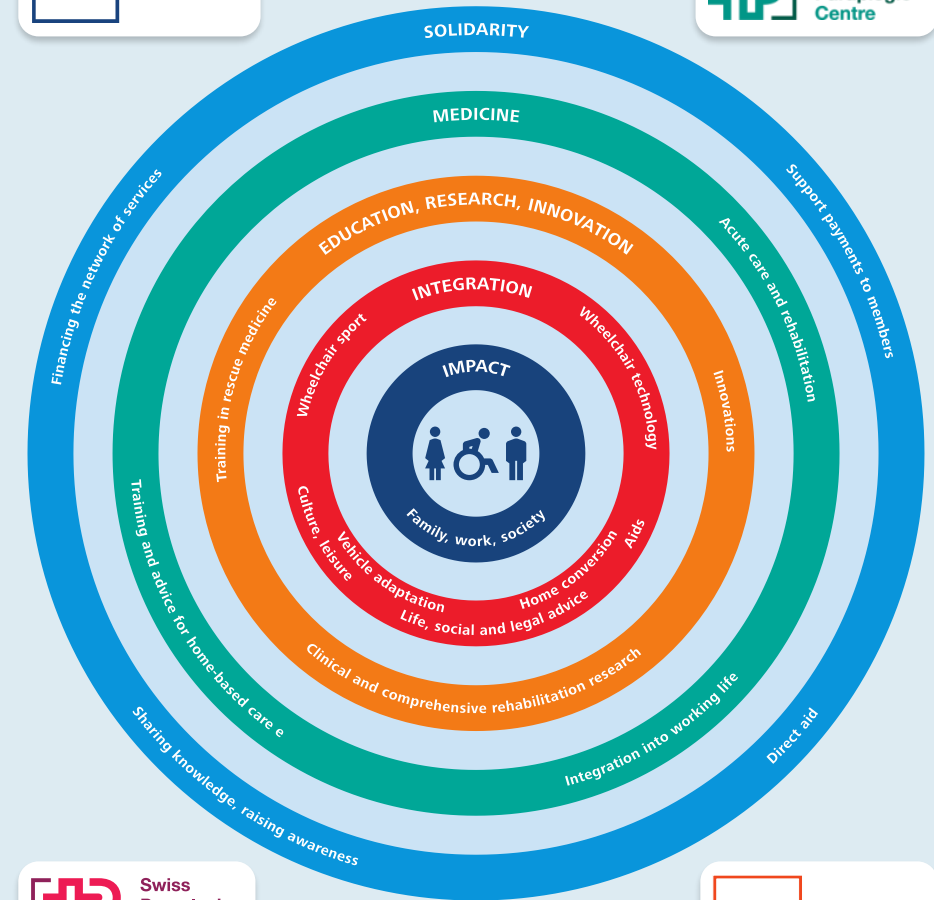
Core Areas: 4 strategic developments

- Solidarity
- Medicine
- Education, Research, Innovation
- Integration and lifelong support
(incl. Active Communication)

Solidarity



Medicine



Integration and lifelong support



Education, Research, Innovation



Solidarity

Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPF),
Benefactors' Association (BA) with 1.8 million members,
Hotel Sempachersee



Rapid, Effective Assistance

Direct aid for people with spinal cord injury

- Contributions towards the adaptation of living space, private vehicles and workplaces
- Help meeting any care costs not covered
- Acquisition of mobility aids and equipment
- Initial and further training
- Support for institutions with the same objectives
- Benefactor benefit of CHF 250,000.00 paid to members of the Benefactors' Association permanently depending on a wheelchair due to spinal paralysis as a result of an accident



How membership fees are spent 2018

CHF 88 m fundraising income



25 %

Direct aid given to people with spinal cord injuries



18 %

Support for the **Medicine area of services**



16 %

Member support and fundraising expenses



12 %

Infrastructure in Nottwil



12 %

Support for the **Education, Research and Innovation area of services**



7 %

Support for the **Integration and lifelong support area of services**



4 %

Research contributions to third parties



4 %

Administrative expenses



2 %

Support for the **Solidarity area of services**

Medicine

Swiss Paraplegic Centre, ParaHelp,



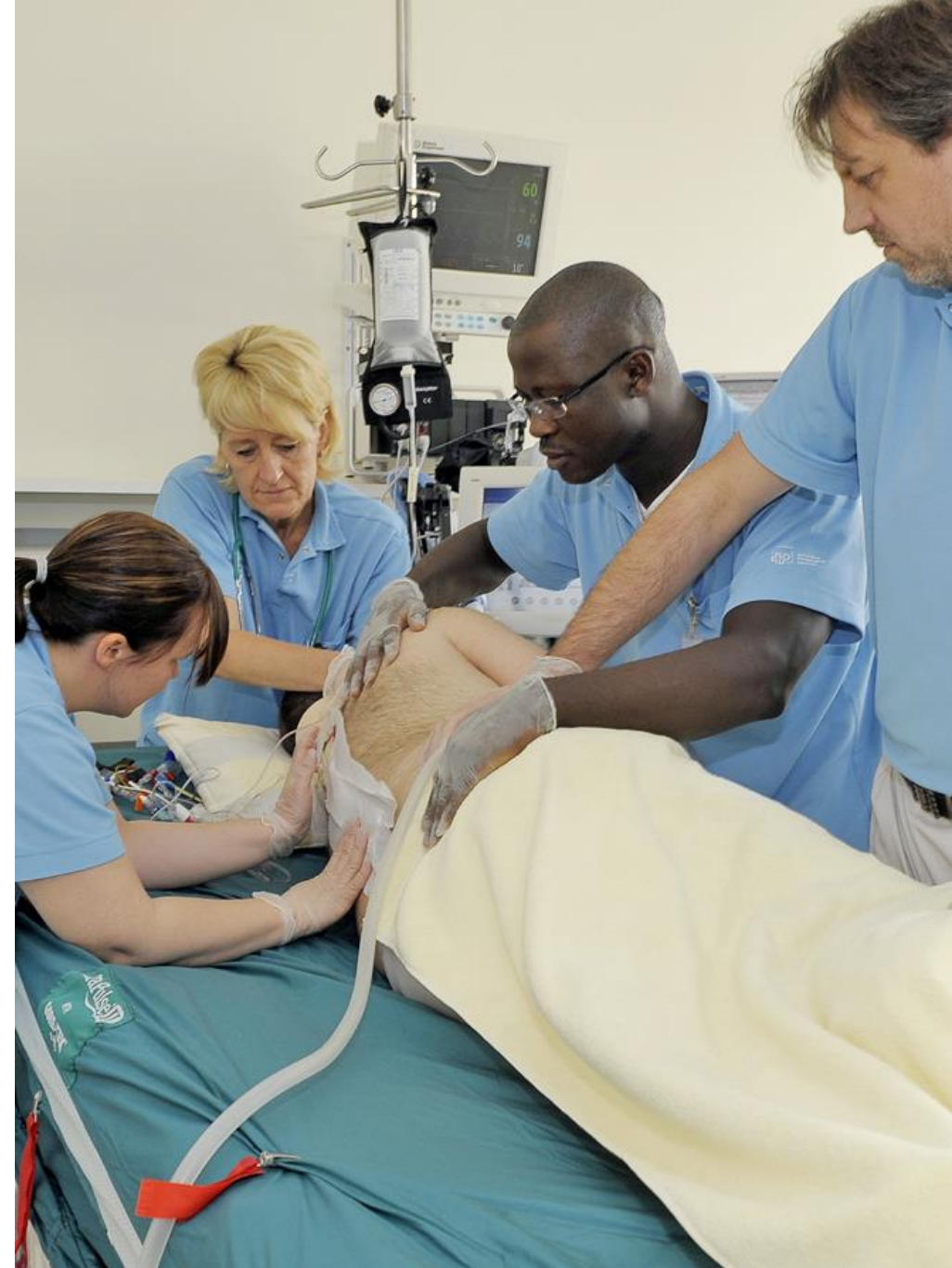
Swiss
Paraplegic
Centre



Expert Treatment

Leading specialist clinic for paraplegics

- 156 beds
- Emergency admissions around the clock
- Over 1200 inpatients per year
- Over 52,000 care days per year of which over 9000 are dedicated to patients who require artificial respiration
- 6 hours of care per patient per day



Everything Under One Roof

An unrivalled service

- Emergency care
- Intensive care medicine
- Acute medicine
- Rehabilitation
- Outpatient care unit
- Nursing
- Advisory services
- Occupational integration (ParaWork)
- Prevention (Sirmed)
- Advice/training for care at home (ParaHelp)
- Orthopaedic technology (Orthotec)



Initial Rehabilitation

Key Figures 2018

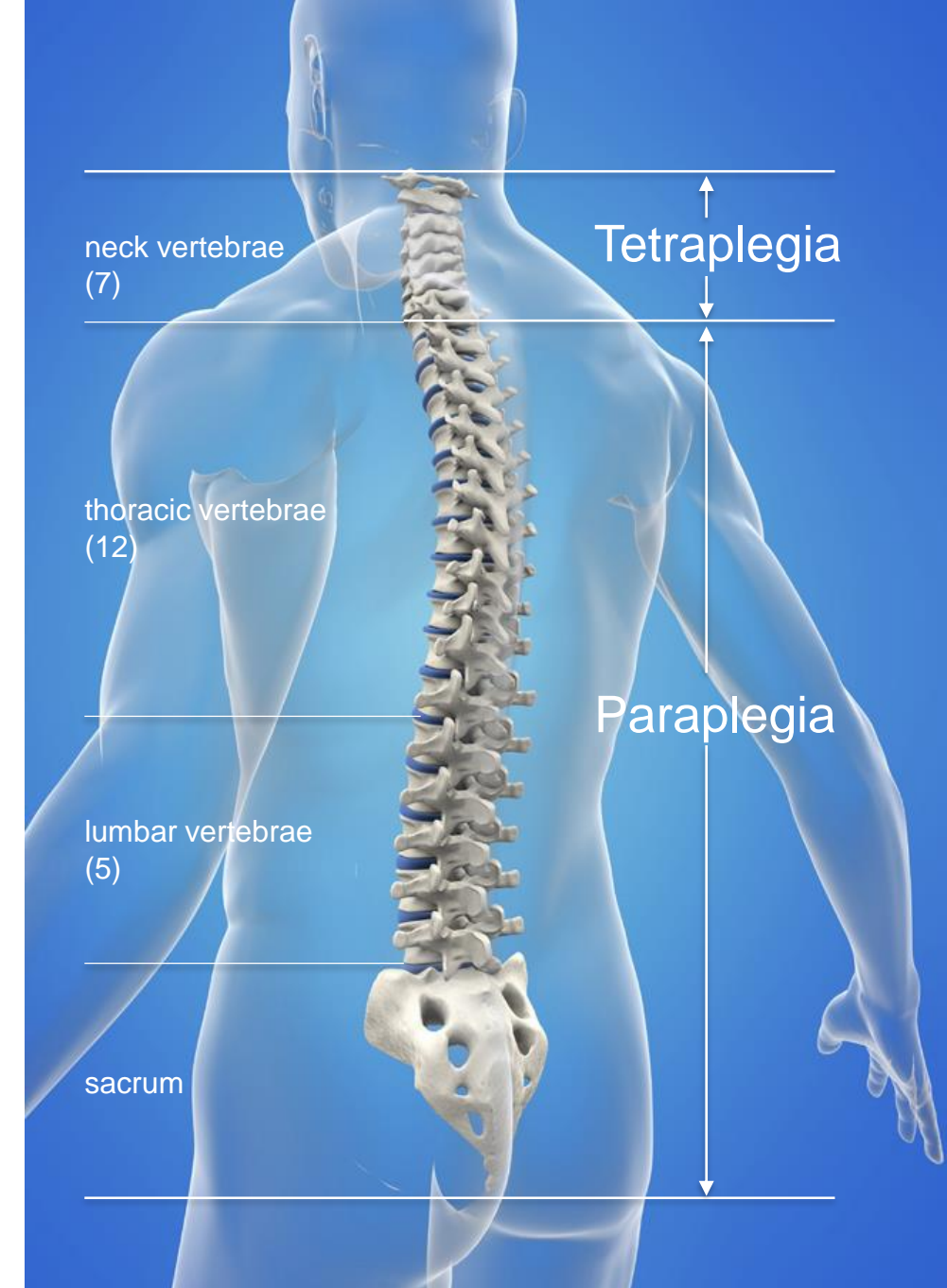
- 53% Paraplegics
- 47% Tetraplegics

Causes of paralysis

- 47% Illness
- 53% Accident

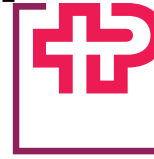
Causes of accident

- 42% Falls
- 26% Sport
- 20% Traffic
- 12% Injured by third parties and other causes



Integration and Lifelong Support

Swiss Paraplegic Association,
Orthotec, Active Communication



Swiss
Paraplegics
Association



we integrate. active.



Orthotec



Support for Reintegration

Comprehensive support

Swiss Paraplegic Association services

- Life coaching
- Wheelchair sport
- Social and legal advice
- Obstacle-free building
- Culture and leisure
- Support for 27 wheelchair clubs

Orthotec services

- Orthopaedic technology
- Rehabilitation technology, with wheelchair mechanics
- Vehicle adaptation
- Incontinence items

Active Communication services

- Assistive technology, electronic devices
- Consultancy



Education, Research, Innovation

Swiss Paraplegic Research, SIRMED, Swiss Paraplegic Centre, IAT Innovation centre for assistive technologies



Swiss
Paraplegic
Research

SIRMED

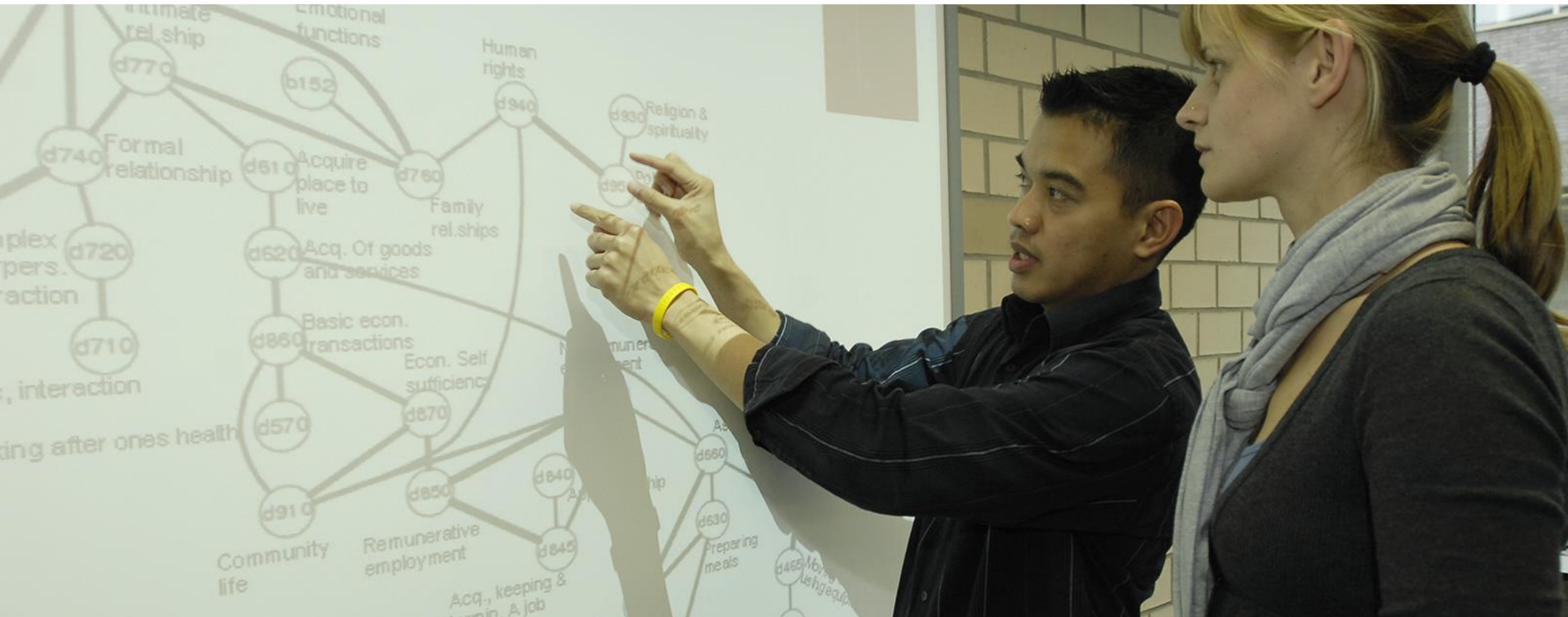
Swiss Institute of Emergency Medicine



Innovation centre
for assistive
technologies



Swiss
Paraplegic
Centre



KEY FIGURES OF THE SWISS PARAPLEGIC FOUNDATION GROUP

CHF m

2018

• Turnover	255 m
thereof fundraising	88 m
• Net result	2 m
• Equity 61.4 %	322 m
• FTE	1 343
• Employes	1 590
• Hospital beds	180



Improving Quality of Life

Multidisciplinary strategy

- Clinical and society-oriented research for improving functionality
- Well-being, integration and quality of life

Networking activities

- Non-university research institution (recognised by the Swiss Federal government)
- Cooperation with universities and clinics in Switzerland and abroad
- Platform for international exchange of expertise
- Training and advanced training in health sciences and politics at the University of Lucerne



ACTIVE COMMUNICATION LTD AS THE MAIN SOLUTION PROVIDER IN SWITZERLAND



History of Assistive Technology in Switzerland

1983 Foundation of FST – Fondation pour des téléthèses, Neuchâtel, by Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPF) and cerebral Foundation



1999 Foundation of Active Communication Ltd, Zug (AC) by Fiore Capone and Ivan Zavagni



2015 Formation of FST – AC Group under the management of Fiore Capone



2018 Absorption of FST by the SPF; AC is now a 100% sister company of SPF, tax exempted as a non-profit company





Key Figures of Active Communication

28 000 deliveries

4 000 articles

2 000 support orders

40 FTE's

16 service hubs all over CH

21 distribution partners abroad

2 distribution partners in CH

Any questions?

→ **Guided tour through the new
Visitor Centre «ParaForum»**