



Meet the presidents. February 26th 2025

ISPO the Netherlands, Erik Prinsen, Ruud Leijendekkers

Describe ISPO in the Netherlands:

ISPO the Netherlands is a healthy NMS. Membership counts vary around 400 members with various professions (but a relative large amount of physiatrists)

We run more congresses each year which are quite successful.

We try to run a student congress each year in which a variety of students have to solve a clinical problem together.

How visible is ISPO the Netherlands?

We have connections with universities and, at this moment 2 teachers in the board and much more teachers and professors in the society.

We are active in the national social media and take part in the annual curriculum of the residents in Physiatry.

We always have some members in international positions (in varying counts to be honest)

How do you see ISPO international and what can we do to improve?

- As conservative. We see plans are being made but we do not see much changing.
 - Could Residents or PhD students help you design, improve and facilitate plans? It fits in the wish to be more attractive to students
- We like the plans of a student membership, but the plans must be attractive to these young professionals.
 - Make groups in social media (LinkedIn)
 - Stimulate speed dating through social media but essentially also in congresses. Students have a lot to gain when they are immersed in the world wide network early in their career.
 - Is it feasible to organize international student congresses, or side-congresses, or maybe a series of international student-aimed webinars?
 - Make ISPO a community in stead of a society.
- The rules to apply to a committee are clear, but there are already too much committees. We have problems sharing our plans and our scientific content because sometimes they have to pass 3 committees before we can go on. It is not always clear which committee does what. This rather slows down than facilitates.
- We like the webinars, only ISPO should facilitate this much more. Every country is looking for scientific content.
 - We believe that there is enough content around the globe, it only should be brought together and made accessible for members only. Residents, PhD students would love to share their research to a large worldwide audience.



**International Society for
Prosthetics and Orthotics**

Learn. Exchange. Support. Innovate.

We would gladly stimulate our students to do so.

International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)

A Non-Governmental Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
In Official Relations with the World Health Organization.

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