



**World
Physiotherapy**
Europe region

**Position Statement –
Rehabilitation as a Human Right and
an Integral Part of the Health System**

Professional Practice Working Group (PPWG)

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POSITION STATEMENT – REHABILITATION AS A HUMAN RIGHT AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Europe Region

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The position of the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy is that rehabilitation as part of a quality and comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental human right. Rehabilitation is an essential part of the health system, ensuring individuals can maintain and maximise independence, enhance their well-being and participate in society¹. Access to rehabilitation is vital for dignity, equality, and inclusion, as recognised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)². In addition to this moral imperative, the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy also recognises the social and economic impact of making rehabilitation an integral part of the health system.

World Physiotherapy³ states that physiotherapy plays a pivotal role in rehabilitation by promoting functional recovery, mobility, and independence through targeted interventions. Physiotherapists assess conditions, set patient-centred goals and implement treatments that enhance strength, coordination, and daily functioning (non-exhaustive list). Rehabilitation services reduce healthcare costs, prevent hospital readmissions and improve individuals' capacity to engage in education, employment and social life.

The Europe Region of World Physiotherapy endorses the World Health Organization's (WHO) Rehabilitation 2030 initiative⁴ emphasising the urgent need for stronger rehabilitation policies, workforce development and financial investment.

The Europe Region of World Physiotherapy supports legislative measures that enhance accessibility and promote rehabilitation as a core health service rather than as a secondary or optional intervention. IT also supports calls for rehabilitation to be recognised as a fundamental human right.

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