ABOUT IF

The International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF) was founded by people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus (SBH) and their families in 1979. Over the years, it has grown from a voluntary association into a professional organisation of people with disabilities with global coverage, democratic structure and transparent and accountable processes.

The majority of IF member organisations are led and governed by adults with SBH or parents of children with SBH. Children are active participants in our members’ activities: they are involved in child-led activities, training workshops on independence and holiday camps. Nowadays, many young people with SBH have taken over the leadership of their organisations. In most cases, IF members choose close cooperation with medical and education professionals and researchers, given the importance of these professions to children and adults with SBH for their survival and development.

IF holds Special Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Through the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme, IF holds a privileged relationship with the European Commission.

IF is represented at the Board of the European Disability Forum (EDF), the Board of EURORDIS and the Board of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). IF is part of the Executive Management Team of the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI).

vision & mission

Our vision of the future is a society that guarantees human rights of children and adults with SBH, and celebrates their contribution in all areas of life. A society that practices also primary prevention of neural tube defects and hydrocephalus.

The mission of IF is to improve the quality of life of people with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families, and to reduce the incidence of neural tube defects and Hydrocephalus by primary prevention, by raising awareness and through political advocacy, research, community building and human rights education.
EXTERNAL PARTNERS
- PUSH! Global Alliance
- European Disability Forum
- European Patients Forum
- EURORDIS
- International Disability Alliance
- Child-Helper
- European Commission
- Vitabiotics Pregnacare
- Atlas Alliance
- Food Fortification Initiative

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IF MEMBERS
- Lieven Bauwens, Belgium - President
- Papatya Alkan, Turkey - Secretary
- Cato Lie, Norway - Treasure
- Elena Zappoli, Argentina
- Rasmus Isaksson, Sweden
- Frantisek Horn, Slovakia
- Emma Guardiaz, Spain
- Nicola Busata, Italy
- Aziza Mustafa Elneema, Sudan
- Giulia Bizzotto, Italy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Lieven Bauwens, Belgium - President
- Papatya Alkan, Turkey - Secretary
- Cato Lie, Norway - Treasure
- Elena Zappoli, Argentina
- Rasmus Isaksson, Sweden
- Frantisek Horn, Slovakia
- Emma Guardiaz, Spain
- Nicola Busata, Italy
- Aziza Mustafa Elneema, Sudan
- Giulia Bizzotto, Italy
- Lieven Bauwens, Belgium - Deputy President
- Papatya Alkan, Turkey - Deputy Secretary
- Cato Lie, Norway - Deputy Treasurer
- Elena Zappoli, Argentina
- Rasmus Isaksson, Sweden
- Frantisek Horn, Slovakia
- Emma Guardiaz, Spain
- Nicola Busata, Italy
- Aziza Mustafa Elneema, Sudan
- Giulia Bizzotto, Italy

SECRETARIAT
- Renée Jopp, Information Officer
- Athina Giannoutsou, European Policy Officer
- Carmen Clemente, Communications Coordinator
- Anna Verster, Senior Adviser on Food Fortification
- Martine Austin, Programme Manager Global Prevention

Youth Group
- Margo Whiteford, Chair
- Benjamin Warf, Service and Care
- David Nolan Morrisey, Human Rights
- Amy McPherson, Social Inclusion
- Richard H. Finnell, Genetics
- Anne Molloy, Causes

Global Experts Panel
- Margo Whiteford, Chair
- Benjamin Warf, Service and Care
- David Nolan Morrisey, Human Rights
- Amy McPherson, Social Inclusion
- Richard H. Finnell, Genetics
- Anne Molloy, Causes

WG on Ageing with SBH
- Margo Whiteford, Chair
- Benjamin Warf, Service and Care
- David Nolan Morrisey, Human Rights
- Amy McPherson, Social Inclusion
- Richard H. Finnell, Genetics
- Anne Molloy, Causes
WHY JOIN?

BENEFITS

Access knowledge on SBH

• Get access to expert advice & scientific research on SBH topics
• Get notifications on events related to SBH
• Receive regular e-Newsletters with information on the activities of IF, its’ members and partners

Join our events & trainings

• Become eligible to participate in trainings on a variety of topics: disability & human rights and prevention advocacy, project management skills, care to disabled persons, i.a.)
• Enjoy a reduced registration fee to the IF biennial International Conference*

Build up your network

• Be part of IF and interact with your peers - our members – by accessing IF’s activities, list of members and updates
• Grow your own membership by joining the only international federation of national SBH organizations
• Consolidate your presence in forums IF is member of (EURORDIS, IDA, EDF & many others)

* For individual members this will be determined on a case by case basis
Fundraise better

• Join a community of like-minded organizations and partner in fundraising initiatives
• Gain credibility and visibility via our online and offline global presence

Shape IF

• Actively participate in IF’s governing by becoming eligible to leadership positions

Shape your present

• Be at the table, not in the menu: guide & receive guidance in shaping policy at the local and Global levels
• Engage directly with the awareness raising campaigns organized by IF

Shape your future

• Join or support in guiding our youth network and/or ageing group
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND FEES

The membership structure is divided into two main categories, moral entities and physical persons, and several subcategories.

- For **moral entities**, the categorisation, fee and voting is as follows:

  * Consult the [World Bank Classification](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator) of countries to determine the category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat A (High income)</th>
<th>Cat B (upper middle income)</th>
<th>Cat C (Lower middle income)</th>
<th>Cat D (Low income)</th>
<th>The profile of your organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR 150</td>
<td>EUR 80</td>
<td>EUR 60</td>
<td>EUR 40</td>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR 200</td>
<td>EUR 150</td>
<td>EUR 80</td>
<td>EUR 60</td>
<td>&gt; 5 years / &lt; 1,000 constituents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR 400</td>
<td>EUR 200</td>
<td>EUR 150</td>
<td>EUR 80</td>
<td>&gt; 5 years / 1,000 – 2,000 constituents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR 600</td>
<td>EUR 400</td>
<td>EUR 200</td>
<td>EUR 150</td>
<td>&gt; 5 years / &gt; 2,000 constituents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Consult the World Bank Classification of countries to determine the category.*
Voting system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entities</th>
<th>Vote</th>
<th>Serving Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National SBH associations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other SBH associations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates (universities, research centers, clinics, hospitals, ...)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Committees only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate (pharma companies, components manufacturers, ...)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Committees only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- For **individuals** that are not members of a moral entity (due to personal choice or the fact that there are no associations the individual can be member of):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUALS (without association)</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>SERVING ELIGIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full member (anyone interested in SBH)</td>
<td>Full fee (75€), adapted according to country of residence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Committees only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young member (under 30) or person with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus</td>
<td>Reduced fee (30€) adapted to country of residence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Committees only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional interested in SBH</td>
<td>150€, adapted according to country of residence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Committees only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that individuals that are members of an organisation that is already a member of IF are NOT eligible to individual membership. Members that apply for individual membership whilst it is of IF’s knowledge that there is a national association in their country will be incentivised to join that association to indirectly be members of IF; resistance to this would need to be justified by the individual member in question (e.g. serious disagreements with the national association in question).
KEY LINKS

Application form for entities
Application form for individuals
Annual and Financial reports
IF website

If you have any questions or doubts about the IF membership structure, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@ifglobal.org