

Asthma & Sport Organisation
Cerkniška 5
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



Phone: +386 1 423 46 64

Fax: +386 1 423 61 60

E-mail: info@asthasport.com

Web Page: www.asthasport.com

**Submission to the Second Public Hearing of the
World Health Organization (WHO) Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health,
Innovation and Intellectual Property**

Introduction

Asthma and Sport Organisation in Slovenia was established in May 2000, in order to help asthma patients live a better life – to offer expert help in the field of sport and exercise.

The goal of contemporary asthma patient treatments is to help them lead lives with as little restrictions as possible. That is why our broader goal is to ensure a more wholesome treatment of the patients, and better professional and lay understanding of the disorders.

The narrower goal is to carry out programs for asthma patients who can not and will not give up their love of sports. That is why we organize programmes especially for children with asthma, who want to participate in sports despite of the disorder. Because of preventive activities, patients are hospitalized less frequently, they optimize medication usage and they also reduce the time of being absent from work and/or school.

Our Philosophy

We believe in partnership and shared responsibility among all direct and indirect asthma related stakeholders with the emphasis on patient active participation, and support from health, sport, and other institutions.

Our Policy

“A chronic disorder can only be controlled by chronic preventive measures.”

Lack of movement/exercise and inefficient treatment of asthma patients in childhood can have a detrimental effect to the disorder in the future. In this way a child is deprived of numerous psychosocial and physical advantages, which leads to social isolation and psycho-physical deviances, causing chronic absence of movement. Absence of movement causes the reduction of motoric skills and consequently the reduction of functional capabilities of the organism. This leads to a general deterioration of health and makes the disorder worse. The consequence is an even greater psycho-physical withdrawal and the vicious cycle between inactivity and the disorder is complete. We can break out of it only by using an adequately adapted kinesiotherapeutic (exercise and sport) and other support programmes.

The focus on children and youth is based on the fact that asthma is the most common chronic disorder in young ages, and affects the physical development, which is of high importance for the overall quality of life during the lifespan.

Our comments

As your Working Group deliberates on the role that intellectual property should play in innovation and public health, we request you to take into account the following summary of our submission:

1. As Patient Advocates through our Advocacy Activities:

We strongly believe research and development into new medicines saves lives and helps patients to regain their health, livelihoods and quality of life. In order to work efficiently in treating the patient the coordination and cooperation of all bodies/stakeholders concerned is of great importance. In this respect organized sport and health activity play a significant share in the R&D of quality of life and directly relates to drug efficiency and disease control.

2. As providers of Health Enhanced Physical Activities and general Asthma Education:

We have an expert and moral imperative to provide updated information for children and adults on new options of asthma related products. Therefore we encourage the dissemination of models of good practice, and that patients are adequately educated to maximize disease prevention and treatment compliance.