



European Academy of Childhood Disability – 36th Annual Meeting

- Aims to build a better future for people with a childhood-onset disability.
- Promotes excellence in research and regular education in all aspects of childhood-onset disabilities.
- Raises public awareness of the needs and rights of people with a childhood-onset disability.
- Developed the EACD+ programme to improve access to sports, culture and technology for people with a childhood-onset disability.



May 29 – June 1, 2024, Bruges, Belgium

Objectives:

- Make EACD+ sustainable in the long term.
- Introduce EACD+ to future host destinations of the EACD Annual Meeting.
- Establish an EACD Impact Task Force and Grant programme.



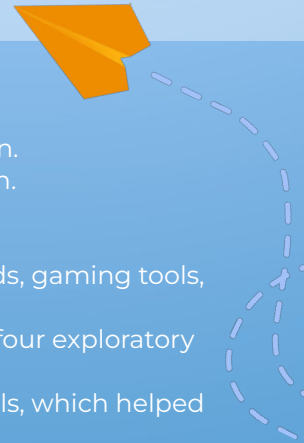


Intended Impact:

- Encourage people with a childhood-onset disability to interact with researchers at the EACD meeting, to support more relevant research and improved clinical practice.
- Increase awareness of the positive effects of sports, physical activity and arts education on quality of life, and improve access for people with a childhood-onset disability.
- Ensure that people with a childhood-onset disability and their caregivers are aware of low- and high-tech solutions that can improve their quality of life.

Innovative Elements:

- **Established an Impact Task Force** to define the Impact intention and create the EACD+ strategy and action plan.
- **Established the Impact Ninja Team** to execute and deliver the initiatives outlined in the strategy and action plan.
- **EACD+ added new experiences** to the EACD meeting for people with a childhood-onset disability, including:
 - A concert by children with and without a disability;
 - A technology experience room with companies and knowledge institutions showcasing rehabilitation aids, gaming tools, smart toys and more;
 - A sports festival, where children with a disability had an opportunity to try up to 10 sports and engage in four exploratory sessions; and
 - Four educational workshops featuring over 60 therapists, sports teachers, policymakers and sports officials, which helped to expand participants' knowledge of inclusive sports.
- **Developed a measurement strategy and communications plan** to tell the story of EACD+ and measure its effectiveness.





Evidence of Impact:

- **1,249 people explored technology products** in the technology experience room.
 - The space featured 38 booths representing 50 companies and knowledge institutions.
- **90 children participated** in the sports festival.
- **60+ therapists, sports teachers, policy makers and sports officials** joined a series of educational workshops and training sessions.
- **997 abstracts were presented to 1,350 conference attendees**, with 50% of the authors having lived experience with childhood-onset disabilities.
- **81% of conference attendees** said that EACD+ added value to the EACD meeting.

“Numerous volunteers who helped to realize a remarkable impact program in Bruges in May 2024 have shown an amazing commitment to creating extracurricular activities that not only address immediate needs but also foster long-term growth and independence for people with a childhood onset disability.”

- Elegast Monbalieu, meeting president, EACD Bruges 2024

