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**ISSA 2025**

# Introduction



It is with great pleasure that I present myself to you in view of the vote to be held in Geneva in December which will appoint the new ISSA Secretary-General.

# Introduction



- My project for the ISSA
  - Reinforcing and renewing services to ISSA's members
  - Prospective and research
  - ISSA : a global player
- Who am I ?
  - My personal informations
  - My institution : the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance
  - The Belgian Disability Insurance
  - My achievements in the NIHDI
  - My international activities
  - My international achievements

# My project for the ISSA



- The ISSA foundations are in the heart of my project:
  - The guidelines
  - Dissemination of information and best practices
  - The training of the ISSA staff members
  - Prospective and research
  - ISSA as a global player
- The main duty of the Secretary-General and his team is to develop the services that are provided to members. These services are the ISSA core business.
- Next to the President, the Secretary-General is the « voice » of the ISSA

# Reinforcing and renewing services to ISSA's members



- The existing level of services is excellent but we can increase the volume of ISSA activities.
- To increase this volume, I envisage the organization of webinars and e-learning sessions in accordance with the members needs. Webinars and e-learning sessions will reinforce the current set of technical seminars and ISSA academy training sessions.



# Reinforcing and renewing services to ISSA's members



- The members experts resources is the main capital of the ISSA. Sharing this capital and making it accessible to all is my vision for a high functioning ISSA secretariat.
- That's why I propose to launch the Social Security TED.



# Reinforcing and renewing services to ISSA's members



- The added value the ISSA is bringing to the members is a major strategic focus. The Secretariat must find the appropriate balance between the members financial contributions and the service delivered.
- The ISSA in an organization of members with different needs and expectations. The service provided by the secretariat must meet the following requirements :
  - Tailor made
  - Suited to all members business activities
  - Suited to the members geographical diversity

# Prospective and research



- The ISSA needs to remain at the cutting edge of the social security megatrends :
  - Extension of coverage to the the new forms of employment
  - Migrations
  - Big data
  - Demographic trends
  - Fundig and financial management
  - New technologies and artificial intelligence.
- The ISSA must remain a reference in prospective and research in social security. Among a specific strategic framework of actions in prospective and research, I propose to relaunch the organization of the annual ISSA research conferences and to strengthen the activity of the International Social Security Review.



# ISSA as a global player



- The current external communication is of a very high standard but we must become even more global and interactive in order to spread ISSA's vision of the social dimension of globalization.
- Promoting social security as a lever for growth and prosperity is one of our fundamental goals.
- I propose a strategy based on 3 principles :
  - I for interactivity
  - V for visibility
  - I for institutional

# ISSA as a global player



I

- Interactivity : creating dialogues with all the stakeholders (from general opinion to decision makers).

V

- Visibility : more presence on social networks and in global media.

I

- Institutional : growing presence in the ILO, the World Bank and OECD, as well as regional organizations.

# Personal informations



- 47 years
- MA in political sciences (Free University of Brussels)
- Start my career as researcher and trainee at the European commission.
- Experience in a consultancy firm and a study center focusing on social security.
- Ten years as senior advisor in Belgian ministers' offices in charge of employment, health and social security
- Since 2009 : Director General for Disability Insurance at the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI)
- Fluent in French, English and Dutch.

# NIHDI



- 1400 staff members
- Annual budget : 30 billions EUR
- Management of two compulsory Belgian social security schemes
  - Health care universal coverage
  - Disability insurance : public scheme for three types of benefits
    - ✦ Sickness benefits
    - ✦ Invalidity benefits (permanent or not)
    - ✦ Maternity leaves

# The Belgian disability insurance business case



- Beneficiaries
  - Employees and self employed
  - Sickness benefits (> 1 year) : 450.000
  - Permanent or temporary invalidity ( $\geq$  1 year) : 400.000
- Annual disability insurance spendings = 8 billions EUR
- NIHDI missions :
  - Permanent or temporary invalidity Medical assessment
  - Control and guarantee of benefits payment to 850.000 beneficiaries
  - Return to work support :
    - ✦ Vocational training individual financial support
    - ✦ Disability management
    - ✦ Part-time return to work financial incentives

# Key national achievements



- **Digitalization** → implementation of the individual medical file (IDES for Invalidity Data Electronic System).  
Management of medical decisions in real time
- **Rehabilitation**
  - From 100 to 6.000 vocational training claims / year (since 2009)
  - 45.000 part-time return to work claims/ year (30% growth since 2009)
  - Launch of the NIDMAR disability management training (80 new disability managers/year)
  - Pilot projects :
    - ✦ Randomized study about the implementation of the IPS model in Belgium
    - ✦ Pilot project for innovative rehabilitation strategies in mental health, cancers and msd's field.
- **Prospective and research** : creation of the Center of knowledge for work incapacity (65 studies launched since its creation in 2015).

# International activities



- ISSA : Vice President of the TC Old age, invalidity and survivors insurance
- Rehabilitation International : Vice President, member of the Executive Committee
- International Disability Management Standards Council : member of the board
- ESIP (European Social Insurance Platform) : co-chairman of the disability and rehabilitation committee
- Expertise missions : OECD, European Commission
- Technical assistance : missions in Rwanda, Moldavia

# Key international achievements



- Guidelines : Difficult to cover groups, return to work (ISSA), Mental health and work (OECD)
- Reports: transition from invalidity to retirement pensions (ISSA), Mental health and work (OCDE)
- Position papers : return to work of people with disabilities and chronic diseases (ESIP, Rehabilitation International)
- Events : International Forum on Disability Management (2020), Technical seminars on various topics (ISSA, Rehabilitation International)



# Let's talk about the ISSA !



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