

# Application and integration of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in vocational rehabilitation

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# Propositions

belonging to the thesis entitled:

## **Application and integration of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in vocational rehabilitation**

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Maastricht 2014

1. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a comprehensive and valuable model to describe and document functioning in varying vocational rehabilitation settings, independent of the health condition or stage of the rehabilitation. *(this thesis)*
2. Although the ICF as a generic model demonstrated to be a valuable framework for describing and documenting functioning in vocational rehabilitation in a comprehensive way, it is intended to be used side-by-side with other work or disability models that are addressing setting-specific or profession-specific needs. *(this thesis)*
3. At a practical level, functional profiles based on ICF categories and the ICF qualifiers have proved to be useful tools for shared goal setting and intervention planning, but at measurement level qualifiers may not be precise enough. Therefore psychometrically sound, ICF based, instruments are needed. *(this thesis)*
4. ICF based measures as the WORQ questionnaire may support the integration of the ICF in clinical practice and thereby enhance the knowledge about functioning patterns and also increase the awareness for the relevance of environmental and personal factors across stakeholders in the return-to-work process. *(this thesis)*
5. Self-reported lived-health (performance) predicts self-reported general health better than biological health (capacity). *(Cristina Bostan, 2014; research area)*
6. The ICF framework, when used in the management of vocational rehabilitation programs, can facilitate interdisciplinary teamwork by enhancing transparency of professional roles and providing a common language as a basis for shared goal setting and coordinated intervention planning in the area of vocational rehabilitation. *(research area)*
7. Even though the desired endpoint of vocational rehabilitation is a full reintegration into gainful employment, the process may also lead to disability evaluation and disability pension. *(research area)*

8. »Decent Work is the ILO's primary goal for everyone, including people with disabilities. When we promote the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, we are empowering individuals, strengthening economies and enriching societies at large« (*Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General; research area*)
9. »I don't pity any man who does hard work worth doing. I admire him. I pity the creature who does not work, at whichever end of the social scale he may regard himself as being« (*Theodore Roosevelt, 1858-1919*)
10. »Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better« (*Sydney J. Harris, 1917-1986*)
11. Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation program ever. The promise of more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market remain to be seen for the Swiss researchers.