

Title: Water tourism for wheelchair-dependent persons and its possible impact on their quality of life

Purpose of the project: To assess what impact water tourism can have on the influencing and improvement of wheelchair-dependent persons' quality of life.

Methodology: This project was based on an empirical study. In particular, the quantitative method's approach was used. The survey saw the participation of 45 respondents, two thirds of whom were wheelchair-dependent persons and one third of whom were persons without disabilities. Wheelchair-dependent persons were split up into two groups according to set criteria. Both groups of wheelchair-dependent persons performed motor activities, half of which were water tourism activities. For my research work, I chose the questionnaire format and in particular I used the S.QUA.LA questionnaire (Subjective Quality of Life Analysis), created in 1992 in Nice (France). For this project, I used the 1997 QOL-CZ-SQUALA Czech version, which was also used by the Psychiatric Demography Laboratory of the Psychiatric Centre of Prague. All the data have been processed using MS Office Excel 2003.

Findings: The overall assessment of life quality confirmed the hypothesis that the higher the parameters of the partial scores, the higher the quality of life is for the group of wheelchair-dependent persons who engaged in water tourism as compared to the wheelchair-dependent persons who did not engage in water tourism activities. At the same time, the hypothesis was confirmed that both groups of wheelchair-dependent persons do not reach the higher quality of life reached by the control group (persons without disabilities).

Key words: body posture, spinal lesions, paraplegia, quality of life, rehabilitation, water tourism.