

Education and Rehabilitation Sciences - Session 13

ERFCON2017.0034 **Accessibility and Usage of Assistive Technology in
Education and Rehabilitation of Children with Motor
Disorders and Chronic Diseases in the Republic of Croatia**

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was determination of current availability and use of assistive technology in education and rehabilitation of children with motor disorders and chronic diseases in the Republic of Croatia alongside with focusing attention on areas related to the development of assistive technologies and their use. Motor disorders and chronic diseases are a phenomenon that primarily means below average physical functioning with different phenomenology and etiology. Assistive technology and rehabilitation is a common term that includes support and flexible rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities, as well as the process of selection and use. In the education and rehabilitation of children with motor disorders and chronic illnesses, assistive technology has an important role and enables or enhances the performance of different skills. Participants were teachers of primary and secondary mainstream schools, rehabilitators employed in schools or centers for children with motor disorders and chronic illnesses, and parents of children who use assistive technology in the Republic of Croatia (N=153). On-line questionnaire has been made for the study. It examined the attitudes of teachers, therapists and parents on the application of assistive technology in education and rehabilitation, as well as their awareness of this type of technology, the need for it and the ability to use it. Recommendations for improving the awareness, the procurement process and the use of assistive technology aids in the rehabilitation and education of children with motor disorders and chronic illnesses have been designed based on the results of the research.