



Annual Review 2013



A Message from the Chairman



Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to introduce our Annual Activity Report for 2013. In this brochure you will find highlights of the activities of our organisation over the year. This is the second time we are publishing an annual activity report. We hope you will find it interesting and that it will contribute to a better understanding of the various activities of our members and their successes in bringing to bear our common values through actions and projects.

Our membership is indeed diverse: it is made up of organisations of various sizes that engage in a very broad range of services: ambulance services, help to the homeless, hostels for the families of hospitalised patients, retirement homes, hospitals, first aid and first aid training, youth work, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and many other related activities. All these activities, however, hinge on one single inspiration, the Christian values of the Orders of St John that founded our member enterprises, and one common vocation: to help people in everyday life as well as in crisis situations.

Within this very broad picture, the mission of JOIN is to help its members cooperate with each other, exchange best practices and facilitate when necessary their access to the relevant institutions of the European Union.

The heart of JOIN's activities revolves around its working groups where representatives of our members exchange best practices and develop JOIN projects.

During the year under review, our working groups held several meetings, amongst others:

- The PR and Marketing Group decided to start coordinating the lobbying of JOIN vis-à-vis the EU institutions in Brussels.
- Upon the initiative of JOIN, the Youth Group discussed placing a stronger focus on EU funding for projects involving young people.
- The Clinical Group came together in Brussels to develop joint initiatives in clinical working areas.

2013 was also the first year of the Volunteer Swap with seven exchanges (the flagship swap being the Berlin marathon with 24 participants from 4 other JOIN members). In 2013, JOIN also coordinated a European first aid days event across Europe to raise awareness about the importance of first aid particularly among young people.

The Board of JOIN held two meetings in Brussels and also an extended Board meeting where the heads of the working groups reported on and discussed their progress and challenges with the JOIN Board.

The Annual General Meeting took place in Berlin. One of the meeting's highlights was the presentation of the Strategic Commission's conclusions. During that meeting we bade farewell to Hans-Peter von Kirchbach, president of the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany and vice-chairman of JOIN, and to Peter Åkerhielm from the Swedish enterprise Johanniterhjälpen and JOIN chairman for the last two years. During that meeting, Dr. Arnold von Rümker from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany and DI Johannes Bucher, president of the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria, were elected to the Board. The AGM elected its vice-chairman and Chairman for the next two years. Colonel Mackenzie MBE and I were elected to serve in those two positions.

I hope you enjoy reading this report. The JOIN Board looks forward to continue serving the St John ideal by supporting our member enterprises over the next twelve months.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Velten-J". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Christian Velten-Jameson

JOIN Volunteer Swap

Connecting JOIN members through volunteer exchanges

The JOIN Permanent Volunteer Swap was launched in January 2013, enabling volunteers from JOIN members to take part in selected projects in other JOIN countries. By doing this, the Volunteer Swap fulfils one of JOIN's core objectives: to raise awareness about the international dimension of the Orders of St John as well as their enterprises and bring St John charities from all over Europe closer together.

The Volunteer Swap is an exchange programme across Europe giving St John volunteers the opportunity to meet other volunteers, learn about other St John organisations and take part in new working fields. By doing so, the Volunteer Swap fulfils one of JOIN's core objectives: to raise awareness about the international dimension of the Orders of St John and their enterprises, and show St John volunteers from all over Europe that they are part of a wider, international St John family and bring the individual (national) charities closer together.

The idea of the Permanent Volunteer Swap dates back to 2011, when the first Volunteer Swap took place as one of JOIN's contributions to the European Year of Volunteering, an initiative sponsored by the European Commission.

Thirteen enterprises of Johanniter International participated. The projects ranged from providing first aid at the London Marathon and assistance for homeless people in Switzerland to a soup kitchen in Riga.

It operated with an exchange chain implying a cycle with volunteers from Cyprus starting in England. Then, St John England, the hosting organisation of the first stage, sent volunteers to the next country and so forth, until the exchange came full circle with St John Cyprus hosting the last event with Italian volunteers.

Because of the great success of the project and plenty of positive feedback from the volunteers as well as the hosting organisations, JOIN members decided to make the Volunteer Swap a permanent programme.

Information on current projects, requirements and contact persons can be found on the JOIN Volunteer Swap website (www.volunteerswap.johanniter.org).

The following pages provide an overview of articles, photos and volunteer reports of selected Swaps that took place between JOIN members in 2013.

Austrian Johanniter at "Rock im Park"

Nuremberg, 9 June 2013

Five volunteers from Austrian JOIN member Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe supported their colleagues from Johanniter Germany at "Rock im Park" in Nuremberg from 6 to 9 June. The exchange was part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap.

The famous "Rock im Park" music festival in Nuremberg features concerts by well-known music groups such as "GreenDay", "30 Second to Mars", "Volbeat" or "The Prodigy". At the festival this year 60 000 tickets were sold. The joint team from Germany and Austria took care of 750 people, most of them suffering from circulation problems and collapses caused by the heat.

The five Austrian volunteers came from Vienna and Innsbruck and formed a first care team. "To be able to put one's knowledge and capabilities in practice at such an event is a great experience. The atmosphere is simply breath-taking", says paramedic Philipp Lichtenberger. The exchange was highly appreciated also by the organisers

and thus the Johanniter from Austria were invited to support the local members of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany at "Rock im Park" again in 2014.



► Together with their German colleagues, these five Austrian St John volunteers treated a total of 750 people.

Hungarian–Italian volunteer exchange at singing birds' festival

Sacile, 18 August 2013

At the famous singing birds' festival in Sacile, Italy, in mid-August, volunteers from St John Hungary assisted the local St John volunteers in providing first aid to the thousands of visitors. The Italian–Hungarian exchange was part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap.

The festival of the singing birds is a renowned annual traditional event in Sacile. Food and drinks, a dogs' show and other attractions provided the setting for the highlight, a singing contest between different birds (tufts, goldfinches, nightingales etc.) that takes place in the early morning at 4 am. A jury of experts is present to listen to the singing and award prizes to the winning birds. This year's festival was the 740th. As in the last years, the local SOGIT branch (Soccorso dell'Ordine di San Giovanni in Italia) had a leading role in providing first aid.

The local branch of the St John association in Italy, Soccorso dell'Ordine di San Giovanni Italia (SOGIT), was

present at the event with three ambulances at strategic points in town. In addition, several patrols, each made up of two volunteers and equipped with emergency backpacks, were present in the crowd to step in in case their assistance was required.

This year SOGIT Sacile could count on the help of four volunteers from the Hungarian JOIN member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat. They were hosted in Sacile within the framework of the international project "Volunteer swap". During their stay they were part of the teams rendering first aid and also participated in cultural and festive events, in cooperation with the community association Pro Sacile which provided logistic support.

Last year SOGIT Sacile hosted the Austrian volunteers whose close friendship was strengthened by the visit of SOGIT volunteers from Sacile to Vienna in October 2012.

German volunteer in Riga

Riga, 31 August 2013

In August, Eike Hundhausen, a Johanniter volunteer from Germany, spent a week with Latvian JOIN member Sveta Jana Palidziba. During this time, she helped out in the soup kitchen as well as the clothes distribution centre and also visited the local St John care centre in Riga. The exchange was part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap. Read her personal account below.

„As part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap 2013 the Latvian St John organisation launched a call for "volunteers from other JOIN members to support their soup kitchen project". Equipped with a potato peeler I travelled to Riga to support the two chefs . In order to cook soup for 600 people we needed to peel and slice lots of carrots, cabbages, potatoes and garlic. Once we distributed the soup, I visited Sveta Jana Paliziba's clothes distribution centre, where once a week people with low income can pick up clothes that were donated to the organisation. Especially during the cold Latvian winter with temperatures down to -25 °C warm winter clothes are essential for survival.

The St John care centre in Latvia takes care of 460 patients in the town and includes a daycare centre for 20 adults with mental disabilities. Both are located in the same building. 100 nursing staff



take care of the patients who are treated through music, drama and arts. In addition, social workers individually encourage and support personal development. Handicraft, especially weaving and stitching is particularly popular to practice motor skills. Unfortunately, stitching utensils are rather scarce and very expensive. Thus, I promised to collect utensils among the Active Senior Citizens of Siegburg and send them to Riga. St John Latvia is really committed not least thanks to the continuous efforts undertaken by its General Manager Melanija Grundsteina.

On my day off I visited the famous old town of Riga. As the town was celebrating its 109th birthday at that time, it offered a wide-ranged programme where tradition met modernity and curiosity. I was astonished by the diversity the town had to offer and enjoyed the day a lot.

When I had to leave on Sunday morning, Melanija took me to the airport. She promised that she would visit the Active Senior Citizens of Bad Honnef, a German active senior citizen centre next year. As a farewell present I received a colourful woven carpet with an embroidered card: "Cherish the warm and happy memories. Your friends from Riga."

Translated from German by Christian Imfeld

Austrian volunteers provide first aid at Great Dorset Steam Fair

Dorset, 1 September 2013



► During their stay, the Austrian volunteers Florentine Huber and Mercedes Dangl met the Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of the Order of St John, Rodney Green (4th from right)

Two paramedic volunteers from Vienna from Austrian JOIN member Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Vienna, Florentine Huber and Mercedes Dangl, travelled to England at the end of August in order to support English JOIN member St John Ambulance at "Great Dorset Steam Fair" which took place from 28 August to 1 September.

During the four days of the fair St John volunteers ensured the provision of first aid and medical services to 200 000 visitors and exhibitors. The two Austrian volunteers contributed by providing first aid services. While doing so, they gained valuable first aid experience and had the opportunity to practice their language skills. In addition, besides establishing many contacts with St John Ambulance volunteer colleagues, the two Austrian volunteers met the St John Prior of England and the Islands, for them an "unforgettable experience".

St John volunteers from Finland assist Johanniterhjälpen Sweden at Lidingöloppet

Lidingö, 28 September 2013

Two medical doctors and fourteen volunteers from Finnish JOIN member Suomen Johanniittain apu with an ambulance assisted Johanniterhjälpen, the Swedish St John association, in providing first aid throughout the Lidingöloppet weekend, the famous 30km run that takes place every autumn in Sweden. The exchange was part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap.

After three cardiac arrests during Lidingöloppet 2012, Johanniterhjälpen Sweden, the Swedish heart-lung foundation and the Lidingöloppet marathon organisers decided to collaborate to ensure good and immediate care in case of cardiac arrests during Lidingö marathon 2013.

This year, one St John volunteer was located every single kilometre along the 30km track. All of them were trained in CPR and equipped with a defibrillator. 2 km before the finish line a runner suffered from a cardiac arrest. A St John volunteer reacted immediately and started with CPR and defibrillation. The runner had regained full conscience by the time the ambulance arrived.

"Cardiac arrests are horrible, but we are very glad that we could reanimate the runner so quickly. This incident shows that the efforts undertaken by Johanniterhjälpen, the heart-lung foundation and Lidingöloppet were anticipatory and in this particular case effective", says

one of the project leaders of Johanniterhjälpen Carl Reuterskiöld. "Together with the heart-lung foundation we will continue our effort to build a volunteer network within CPR in order to contribute to increasing the chances of survival after suffering from cardiac arrests."

The Finish St John volunteers and the two medical doctors made a great job at Lidingöloppet 2013 and thereby contributed to a safe event. Most likely, they will participate also next year.



► Three Finnish volunteers (centre) together with their two St John colleagues from Sweden.

St John volunteers from 5 countries assist at Berlin marathon

Berlin, 29 September 2013

24 volunteers from JOIN members in Austria, Italy, Poland and Wales supported the German Johanniter at the Berlin marathon at the weekend 28-29 September 2013. The exchange was part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap.

While the St John association in Poland, Joannici Dzieło Pomocy, had already sent volunteers to the Berlin marathon before, it was a new experience for the Germans to have support from Austrian, Italian and Welsh St John volunteers.



► Together with doctors, St John volunteers wait for the runners to enter the finish area.

18 volunteers arrived from five different cities in Poland. Two medical doctors, three paramedics and thirteen medical service assistants operated their own first aid station in the finish area during the skater and mini marathon on Saturday and the marathon on Sunday. Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria sent three paramedics



► More than 40.000 runners participated in the Berlin Marathon 2013.

from Vienna, while one volunteer came from the Italian JOIN member SOGIT and two from St John Wales.

The oldest of the volunteer group from abroad, Neil Adam (71) from Bangor, has been involved at St John Ambulance Wales for the last 27 years. The retired teacher thinks it is interesting to see how the provision of medical services is organized in other countries. Gareth Williams (34) who has been a volunteer for St John Wales for the last 21 years agrees that such a big event is a great opportunity to get to know different first aid provision systems and practice them.

The youngest volunteer was William Tommasini (20) from Udine in Italy. In Berlin, he was able to meet St John volunteers from different countries and gain international experience.

► Polish, Italian, Austrian and Welsh St John volunteers at Berlin marathon.





► Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe was also present with a cycling unit from Schwabach-Ruth in South Germany.

Markus Hüsemann (24), Michael Schrödl (24) and Dominic Hiemer (21) from Austria were attracted by the size of the Berlin marathon. "Since the size of the Johanniter in Austria does not allow us to provide first aid services on such a large scale at such large public events, Berlin marathon is a unique experience", says Markus Hüsemann.

All these volunteers share a commitment to St John and volunteer not only in their country, but also across national borders. They are linked through the membership of Johanniter International (JOIN), which encourages and supports exchanges of St John charities across Europe through its "Volunteer Swap" programme.

Hungarian volunteers help in soup kitchen in Riga

Riga, 12 September 2013

St John volunteers from Hungarian JOIN member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat supported Latvian St John volunteers from Sveta Jana Palidziba in organising a soup kitchen in August 2013. During their stay, the Hungarian participants also had the opportunity to accompany a Latvian volunteer group to a camp for disabled people in Estonia. The Hungarian-Latvian exchange was part of the JOIN volunteer Swap.

The volunteers from St John Hungary travelled to Riga on 5 August in order to help run a soup kitchen for people in need. Every day, volunteers of the soup kitchen cook and distribute soup to people in need. Without volunteers and donations, the soup kitchen would not exist. The experience the Hungarian St John volunteers gained from this project was surely of help a day later when it was decided that they could accompany their Latvian counterparts to a four-day camp for disabled people in Estonia. This camp was organised and funded by the Latvian St John association. During the camp the volunteers helped in the kitchen and organised trips



► During their stay in Latvia the Hungarian volunteers also helped out in a camp in Estonia.

for the participants. In this manner the Hungarian and Latvian volunteers together with all the participants of the camp had the opportunity to explore the Estonian country and culture.

Once the Hungarian volunteers came back to Riga, they helped with the distribution of clothes. Of course, the exchange did not only mean work. The voluntary work was complemented by sightseeing tours and the tasting of local food and beverages. „This exchange was very fruitful in a volunteering, cultural and geographic sense. The hospitality of the Latvian St John volunteers was great and we are happy that we could help them realise some of their projects. In addition, they showed us around in Riga and there is nothing better than sightseeing with locals”, Regina Kaltona and Zsófia Porcsalmy write in their final report.



Sveta Jana Palidziba in Latvia are expecting to be able to offer a similar Volunteer Swap project next year.

Selected Activities 2013

JOIN First Aid Days – JOIN members bring first aid to young people over Europe

Europe, June 2013

During a fortnight in June 2013, St John charities throughout Europe succeeded in raising awareness about first aid among young people through various different activities within the framework of JOIN First Aid Day. The events included visiting schools, raising awareness through events such as quizzes, working together with local youth organisations and giving instructions on how to deal with camping accidents such as burns. In total, JOIN members were able to reach out to over 600 people throughout Europe with the great majority among these being children.

In emergency situations, delivering immediate first aid before professional help arrives can be crucial to helping relatives or friends survive. Everybody can make a difference – and this also applies to young members of the society. JOIN members are aware of this. On national level, they already work towards raising awareness among the general public about the importance of being able to help in emergencies on various levels.

During two weeks in June, JOIN members in Germany, Hungary, Latvia and Wales carried these efforts onto an international level through „JOIN First Aid Days“. In particular, they organised different events aimed at teaching the general public basic first aid skills, focusing particularly on youth. Therefore, activities were specifically tailored to address children and adolescents.

Germany

In Germany, the local Johanniter association in Ottobrunn, Bavaria made JOIN First Aid Day part of their Open Day. In particular, they offered a First-Aid-Quiz and some case studies on emergency situations. The event attracted wider audience than expected and also featured a prize draw of a professional First-Aid-course. They also

offered information about Johanniter International. The visitors were excited to hear that other St John organisations exist in Europe and around the world and were keen on learning about their activities. Altogether, the ten volunteers involved in the organisation were very happy with the event and look forward to hosting a similar event in the future.

Hungary

The Hungarian St John organisation, Johannita Segítő Szolgálat, hosted events throughout the country. On 18 June, First Aid Day started in one of the socially most challenging districts of the capital Budapest with a first aid course for 20 socially disadvantaged children aged 8-12.



► First Aid Days' primary aim was to raise awareness about first aid among young people.

Then, on 22 June, Johannita Segítő Szolgálat offered a basic first aid course through one of its local organisations in Mátészalka, East Hungary. 21 youngsters took part and enjoyed it so much that many decided to sign up for the Hungarian St John's Annual First Aid Simulation Camp to take place in mid-July 2013. Some participants also showed interest in attending a 30-hour basic first aid training that will be offered in early Autumn 2013. At the end of the event, the organisers and participants put a special emphasis on the international dimension of the event and with a Psalm, sent greetings to the other JOIN member projects: „For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.“

At both events, all participants received a t-shirt with the JOIN First Aid Day logo on it together with the logo of the host organisation Johannita Segítő Szolgálat.



► The local St John association in Ottobrunn, Germany, simulated emergency situations and showed pedestrians how to react.



► Latvian children learnt how to check whether the person is breathing.

Latvia

On 20 June, Sveta Jana Palidziba, the Latvian JOIN member, organised an event in Riga's central garden which focused on typical accidents of the "L go fest", as St John's day is called in Latvia. Over the afternoon, five different theme-related tents simulated different types of accident: A bee sting in the throat, choking, someone having lost consciousness, food poisoning and burns to the hand.

Each tent was staffed by two volunteers who instructed the participants on how to act in the given situation. A total of 220 youngsters participated in the event and received a diploma afterwards.

Wales

Within Wales, St John held a number of information sessions on first aid, demonstrations and courses in five schools to around 300-400 children. St John Cymru (Wales) was also able to secure a promotional spot in the Welsh capital Cardiff on a busy Saturday where St John members of all ages (amongst others, four Cadets were present) showed first aid to the Welsh public.

All events were organised around St John's day (June 24) - St John is the patron of all JOIN member organisations. „First Aid Days" was developed and coordinated by the JOIN working group youth and implemented by the national St John charities.



► St John Cymru-Wales reached out to over 300 children.

Polish-German summer camp and first aid competition

Klopotowo, 8 August 2013

Two youth groups from JOIN members in Germany and Poland took part in a summer camp in Klopotowo, Poland together from 31 July to 8 August. In particular, members of the regional St John Youth (Johanniter Jugend) from Baden-Württemberg met with a youth group from the Polish enterprise Joannici Dzielo Pomocy.

Apart from a Polish language course, excursions in the surrounding areas, various sport programmes, kajaking on the river Pars ta, a service together as well as a day at the beach at the nearby Baltic sea, activities included a first aid workshop which was completed with a first aid competition. At the last breakfast Isabel, a German participant from Mannheim, summed up the exchange with the words: "I will just stay here".

During their stay, the group of 19 from Germany and 14 from Poland lived in a 100-year old historical mansion that used to belong to a knight of the Johanniterorden. The German-Polish youth foundation supported the exchange financially.

After last year's exchange (JOIN reported about it in its newsletter 2012/4) was very successful, the two JOIN members followed up with a similar event. Last year's summer camp had also been hosted by the Polish St John association in Klopotowo.



► The group of 33 young St John volunteers from Germany and Poland spent a day at the Baltic sea.

JOIN members in Austria, Germany and Hungary fight the floods

May and June 2013

In May and June 2013, weeks of heavy rain caused severe damage in many areas around the Danube in Western and Central Europe. Heavy floods led to the evacuation of entire villages and posed a considerable challenge to medical and civil protection staff in the affected regions, mainly in Austria, Germany and Hungary.

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany, Johanniter-Unfall Hilfe in Austria and Johannita Segítő Szolgálat (Hungary) were part of rescue operations in their countries for several weeks, protecting many people and their belongings in the affected cities and villages from the floods. The three JOIN members were in close contact to exchange information on the flood developments. When required and possible, they supported each other either through sending volunteers or by additional funds.

Austria

Austrian Johanniter supported other rescue units in Rosenheim (Germany) in a cross-border operation. After a call from Rosenheim seven volunteer paramedics from Innsbruck shortly arrived with five ambulance cars to help evacuate the residents to safe areas.



▶ Austrian St John volunteers stabilising a protection bank.

In Orth an der Donau (Austria) the help of Austrian Johanniter volunteers was much appreciated by the local fire brigade. Their main task was to stabilise the protection bank. Andreas Dunkl, chief of civil protection service explained that the local fire fighters called them directly and asked for the support of Austrian volunteers. Furthermore, Dunkl explained that the work is not over when the water is gone; various clean-up tasks followed. Not only technical competence was needed; aiders had to coordinate themselves and needed to respond quickly and effectively.

Germany

In Germany, the Johanniter were also active, with 600 volunteers on duty to be able to respond to every kind of rescue service needed, such as evacuating people, building and running emergency accommodations as well as providing medical assistance and food.

In Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Lower Saxony, Bavaria and Brandenburg Johanniter volunteers from all around Germany helped local units fight against the water. Lars Biederbeck, chief of operations branch Saxony, explained that "the helpers were exhausted after seven days of operations in flooded areas. This operation was not only hard on the body but also in the mind". At the river Elbe in Lower Saxony, further volunteers arrived to take care of up to 400 fire brigaders.

In areas where the immediate danger of flooding could be averted, the Johanniters provided follow-up assistance to the evacuated residents. In Saxony, one of the areas with the worst flooding, almost 200 volunteers supported the local residents. After the floods in 2002, termed the "flood of the century", people thought they had seen the worst, but unfortunately in some areas this year the water depth of the Elbe was even higher than back in 2002.

Hungary

In Hungary, some 1,300 people from 34 towns and villages not far from Budapest were forced to leave their homes. 44 roads were closed due to the floods. The Danube peaked at 8.91 meters late on Sunday 10 June 2013, above the 8.6 meter record established during the 2006 floods. Fortunately, the early warnings and the great efforts of helpers prevented a major catastrophe.

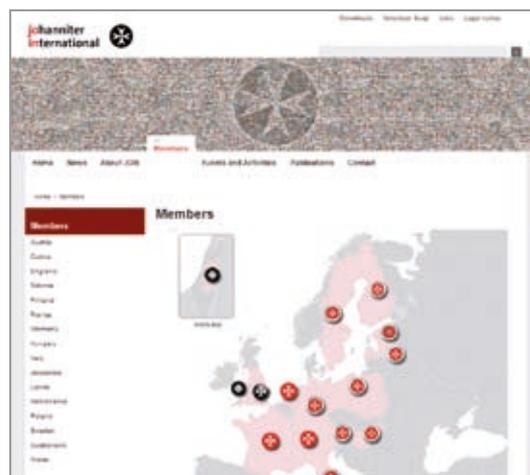
With a great number of volunteers, Hungarian JOIN member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat was involved in the rescue operations during and after the flood. Since the flood in 2010 they have continuously extended their cooperation with the Hungarian Maltese Disaster Relief service. At the beginning, Johanniter Hungary provided the volunteers and helpers with food and refreshments in Nagymaros, 60km north of Budapest. As the flood moved further south, they set up a joint coordination office with the Maltese in Baja. Ever since, Johanniter Hungary have been helping people to reconstruct their homes. Since the rebuilding of the areas and houses is quite expensive and not all villages receive government support, the Maltese have set up a reconstruction plan for approximately 50 houses. The Hungarian St John association is supporting the rebuilding of 4-6 houses at a total cost of 20,000-30,000 Euros. Part of the funds will come from Johanniter International Assistance, the German department for humanitarian assistance within German JOIN member Johanniter Unfall-Hilfe.

New JOIN website

2 August 2013

At the beginning of August 2013, the JOIN office launched the new JOIN website. Since then, web users can enjoy the JOIN website in a new and modern design. JOIN members, friends, partners and other interested persons can find constantly updated content and more facts and information on JOIN and its members. The new website has the same detailed, user-friendly interface as the JOIN Volunteer Swap site. Both sites are based on the fresh and clearly structured design developed by the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Germany. It is also used by the Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria.

The JOIN website can be accessed at www.johanniter.org.



Swiss St John charity send hospital equipment to Central and Eastern Europe

As in the years before, in 2013 the Swiss JOIN member again organised a high number of transports to different destinations in Central and Eastern Europe. In a total of 16 transports the St John charity in Switzerland brought tons of good quality equipment, furniture and relief supplies to communities and people in need.

Throughout 2013 the Swiss St John charity conducted 16 transports of hospital equipment and relief supplies to different destinations in Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia including the Polish and Hungarian JOIN members. The goods delivered included 72 hospital beds with accessories, 5 wheelchairs, 12 rollators, 42 beds, 15 mattresses, 568 cardboard boxes with beddings/clothes, 24 cardboard boxes full of toys, 937 chairs, 3 trucks full of office furniture and equipment, clothes for children and buggies.

The Swiss St John charity has a special department responsible for transporting well-preserved equipment abroad for charitable ends. JOIN partners play an important role in the realisation of these transports, which reflect JOIN cooperation at its best. In 2013, four of the altogether 16 transports either were carried out

together with other JOIN partners or benefited JOIN members directly.

In March, the Swiss Johanniter together with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Berlin facilitated a hospital material transport for the benefit of Parfia Swidnica, the protestant parish Schweidnitz in Poland. The transported goods included twelve hospital beds, five wheelchairs, twelve rollators and 208 cardboard boxes containing beddings and clothes.

A second transport was carried out in April. This time, 360 chairs and 53 desks were sent to Albert-Schweitzer School in Gleiwitz, Poland.

In August, Johannita Segítő Szolgálat in Hungary received 18 hospital beds, 360 cardboard boxes containing clothes and 24 cardboard boxes containing toys. The Hungarian JOIN member facilitated the transport.

A further transport to Poland in the light of JOIN cooperation was organised together with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Berlin. In September, children's clothes and prams were sent to Diakonie Oberschlesien in Poland.

In all these four cases, and in the other transports conducted by the Swiss St John charity in 2013, most of the goods, equipment and furniture was made available thanks to the strong cooperational ties with the Maltese Order in Switzerland.

For further information on the transports and the Swiss international transport department, please contact Daniel Hug ([hug.egger\[at\]bluewin.ch](mailto:hug.egger@bluewin.ch)).



► The Swiss St John charity carried out 16 transports of hospital material to partners in 2014.

Selected Meetings 2013

JOIN Board meets Chairs of JOIN Working Groups

Brussels, 27 March 2013

Following an invitation by the JOIN board, the JOIN working group chairs and the chairman of the JOIN Strategic Commission came together in Brussels on 26/27 March to discuss current developments within the network.



► Chairman Peter Åkerhielm (centre) and Board member Christian Velten-Jameson (right) listen to Dr. Arnold v. Rümker's (left) presentation of the strategic recommendations.

At the extended meeting, the working group representatives (Robert Brandstetter for PR & Marketing / Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria, Ylvi Hanke for Youth / Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany, Jacco Kruithof for Volunteering / Johanniter Hulpverlening Netherlands and Wiebke Kessens for Humanitarian Assistance / Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany) presented the ongoing activities of the working groups to the board. JOIN General Manager Daniel McCormack reported on the activities of the newly re-enacted JOIN Clinical group. Another highlight of the meeting was the Preliminary Report of the JOIN Strategic Commission presented by Dr. Arnold v. Rümker (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany) that had been submitted to the board in late January.

In addition, Daniel McCormack gave an update on the ongoing activities of the JOIN office as well as current developments within the JOIN network. All participants were very much satisfied with the productive discussions and the opportunity to exchange at the meeting.

In a separate board meeting, the JOIN board (Chairperson Peter Åkerhielm, Vice-Chairperson Hans-Peter von Kirchbach, Ian Mackenzie and Christian Velten-Jameson) amongst others continued the preparations for the AGM that would take place from 24-26 May in Berlin.

The annual exchange between JOIN board and JOIN working group chairs was introduced last year by the JOIN board.



► The JOIN board, the working group chairs and the chairperson of the Strategic Commission attended the meeting in Brussels.

JOIN Annual General Meeting 2013

Schwanenwerder, 24–26 May 2013

This year's Annual General Meeting took place near Berlin from 24 May to 26 May. At the end, all members look back on a successful meeting, particularly because it brought promising outcomes for JOIN's work in the next two years.

The idyllic location of the conference venue on the Schwanenwerder peninsula at the Wannsee provided the ideal setting for the challenging programme of the annual meeting.



► In his inauguration speech, the new Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson outlined the upcoming tasks for JOIN.

On the first day, the JOIN members were given a detailed overview of JOIN's activities from May 2012 to April 2013. In his report on the activities of JOIN since the last AGM, JOIN Chairman Peter Åkerhielm outlined the different volunteer swaps and youth exchanges between JOIN members and the exchange of equipment such as ambulances or hospital beds.

Peter Åkerhielm also spoke about the launch of the JOIN Volunteer Swap website in early 2013 as well as the publication of the JOIN Annual Review 2012, and reported on the different meetings that had taken place, such as in the areas of clinical cooperation and medical repatriation.

The working groups presented their work of the previous 12 months. Highlights included the JOIN Permanent Volunteer Swap (working group Volunteering), constant exchange of best practices (PR & Marketing) and the preparation of a joint event of first aid trainings ("First Aid Days") over various European countries in 2013 (working group Youth).

The meeting also provided input on EU funding opportunities by Harm Bastian Harms, the manager of the International Projects and Cooperation (IPC) unit of the German Johanniter. Harms presented the on-going projects of the IPC with partners from the civil and public sector in different European countries such as Questcity, a computer game designed to teach first aid, or Euracare, a civil protection programme taking care of European citizens in disaster areas. In a subsequent discussion, JOIN members attempted to identify EU funding opportunities for JOIN activities and explored ideas for potential cooperation.



► Amongst others, the delegates approved the report of the Chairman, the accounts and budget and elected a new Board.

Dr. Arnold v. Rümker presented the report on the results of the Strategic Commission, which the General Assembly had requested to develop recommendations on a JOIN strategy at the AGM 2012. The recommendations were discussed vividly and thereafter approved by the General Assembly. Amongst others, the Assembly agreed on increasing work with the EU institutions in Brussels. The JOIN Board and General Assembly expressed its gratitude to the Strategic Commission for its valuable contribution to JOIN's future development.



► The delegates to the JOIN AGM 2013.

Furthermore, the AGM was honoured by the presence of the representatives from the Venerable Order of St John, the Johanniterorden (Bailiwick of Brandenburg) and the Swedish Johanniterorden who are all adherent members to JOIN. In particular, the Secretary General of the Venerable Order of St John, Sir Paul Lambert KCB, actively represented the Venerable Order during sessions. The Commander of the Swedish Order Henric Ankarcrona – who is also currently the President of the Alliance – as well as Dr. Tessen von Hejdebreck, the Commander of the Pomeranian Commandery of the Johanniterorden, familiarised themselves with developments at the AGM at an evening event.

Finally, after what was perceived by all to be a successful two-year term of the JOIN Board, the General Assembly thanked the JOIN Board and particularly Chairman

Peter Åkerhielm for all their efforts. Christian Velten-Jameson from the French enterprise (Association des Oeuvres de Saint-Jean) was elected new Chairman of JOIN for the next two years, while Ian Mackenzie from St John Ambulance England was appointed Vice-Chairman. The other two Board members elected were Johannes Bucher from Johanniter Austria and Dr. Arnold v. Rümker from Johanniter Germany. All four Board directors are members of the Orders. Peter Åkerhielm and Hans-Peter von Kirchbach, Vice-Chairman, did not stand again for re-election.

In his first speech, the new Chairman Velten-Jameson briefly identified the road map for JOIN in the next year as well as the next working priorities and thanked the German Johanniter for hosting the meeting. The next AGM is planned to take place in Budapest in May 2014.

'JOINt' lobbying and EU funds at PR & Marketing meeting

Vienna, 15 October 2013

JOIN members from Austria (Dr. Robert Brandstetter, Chairman), England (Richard Fernandez), Germany (Claudia Hauptmann), Italy (Maria-Irene Cimmino), Latvia (Uldis Rucevskis) and the Netherlands (Katinka Kersting) came together in Vienna on 14 and 15 October for a meeting of the working group PR & Marketing. Apart from regular updates on member activities and developments in the individual organisations, the group discussed plans for a new intranet.



► From left to right: Uldis Rucevskis (SVJP Latvia), Belinda Schneider (JUH Austria), Maria-Irene Cimmino (SOGIT Italy), Katinka Kersting (JHV Netherlands), Richard Fernandez (SJA England), Claudia Hauptmann (JUH Germany), Dr. Robert Brandstetter (JUH Austria), Daniel McCormack (JOIN Brussels)

Daniel McCormack presented the results of the JOIN EU questionnaire that members had filled in during the previous months. On this basis, the group developed some further ideas for the JOIN strategy. Amongst others the participants saw potential in joint lobbying as well as opportunities in obtaining EU funds.



A subsequent presentation by JOIN General Manager Daniel McCormack on relevant policy developments on EU level resulted in an agreement on concrete policy issues to deal with in the next months, such as a public consultation by the European Commission on a special driving licence as well as final deliberations in the European Parliament on the European Directive for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Youth working group discusses EU project opportunities

Riga, 30 October 2013

The JOIN working group youth came together in Riga for a meeting on 29-30 October. JOIN members from England (Gareth O'Gorman), Germany (Ylvi Hanke), Hungary (Imre Szabjan) and Latvia (Ieva Grundsteina) as well as from the JOIN office (Daniel McCormack and Christian



► The youth working group organises youth exchanges such as this one between Wales and Hungary in 2012.

Imfeld) attended. Apart from the usual exchange and update on current developments in JOIN members, guest speaker Andrea Gerriets from International Projects and Cooperation (IPC) from Johanniter Germany gave a presentation on EU project funds under the new Erasmus + programme for youth activities. On this basis the participants developed ideas for potential project proposals for the coming years.

At the meeting, the participants shared updates on current and past activities and evaluated common projects. For instance, JOIN First Aid Day was seen as a great tool to raise visibility and awareness of JOIN and to sensibilise the public about the importance of first aid provision. The group also discussed how to strengthen ties and cooperation between youth representatives in different JOIN members and the JOIN youth working group. Especially Andrea Gerriets' input on EU funded projects was very well received, as the participants held a creative discussion on potential future projects with potential EU funding.

Leading doctors from JOIN members meet in Brussels

Brussels, 7 December 2013

Leading doctors and first-aiders from five different JOIN members came together with members of the JOIN Board and the JOIN office in Brussels on 7 December for a meeting of the JOIN Clinical Working Group.

At the meeting they updated each other on relevant developments in their organisations and on national levels. Amongst others Dr Gabriele Lerche from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria presented an award-winning programme dedicated to supporting adolescents providing care to family members ("superhands"), and the Chief Medical Officer of St John Ambulance England, Dr Louis Lillywhite, reported on changing regulatory requirements for emergency rescue and first aid coverage at events and how St John Ambulance were adapting. The recently appointed Federal Doctor from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, Dr Jörg Oberfeld, outlined different approaches to teaching CPR in Germany. Dr Bob Broughton from St John Wales presented an initiative on integrating first aid education into a wider education curriculum in Welsh colleges. With Johannita Segitö Szolgálat attending a JOIN clinical meeting for the first time, the other participants were interested to hear Dr Orsolya Ács and Imre Szabján's presentation of their

organisation and its rapid development in the area of first aid in the last years.

In further presentations, Dr Christoph Lindenstromberg – the Medical Advisor to Johanniter International Assistance from Germany – showcased the German Johanniter's medical emergency response operations in the Philippines after the typhoon Haiyan. Daniel McCormack and Christian Imfeld from the JOIN office also reported on relevant EU developments, for example on the recently amended EU Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, which strongly affects the ability of clinical personnel to work in other EU countries.

The JOIN meeting also benefited from the presence of JOIN Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson from St Jean France and Vice-Chairman Ian Mackenzie from St John Ambulance, who were able to contribute to the meeting through their experience as volunteers and their JOIN perspective.

As a result of the deliberations on various different clinical issues, the JOIN members agreed on cooperation projects to explore and agreed on a follow-up meeting in 2014.

Humanitarian Aid in JOIN

Selected Johanniter International Assistance activities 2013

With 400 international and local employees, Johanniter International Assistance provides humanitarian aid and development cooperation in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

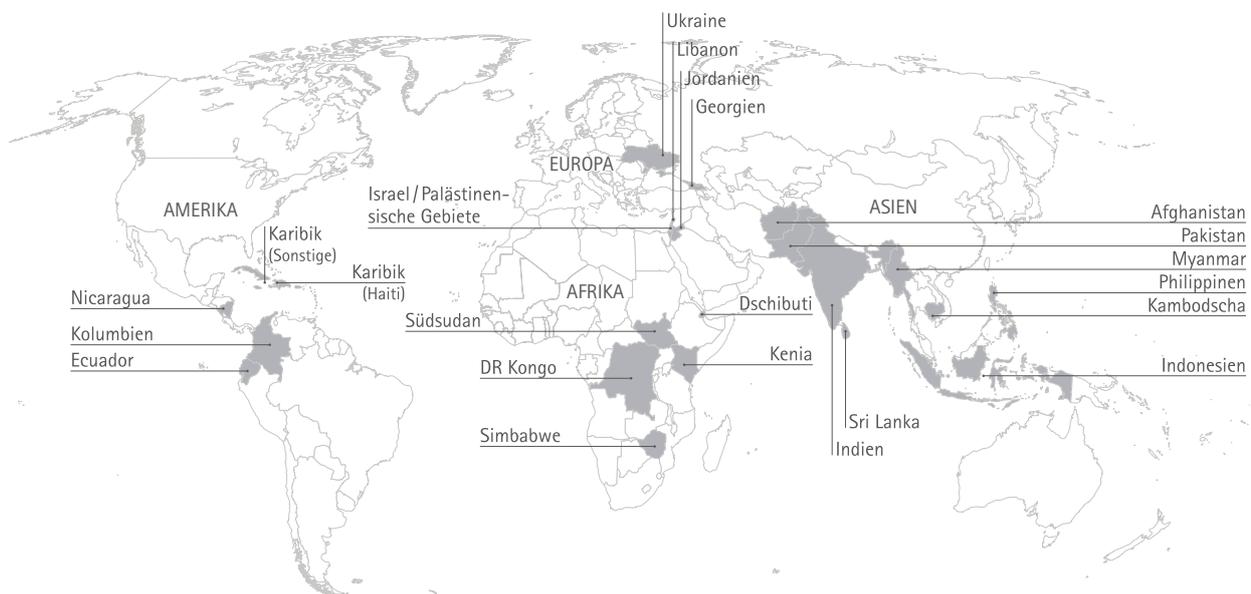
Johanniter International Assistance is operative in more than 20 countries worldwide. Its activities focus on vulnerable people in poverty and people in need of humanitarian aid due to natural disasters, wars and other crises. In 2013 Johanniter International Assistance was involved in approx. 70 projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe to help people in need.

With 14 country offices, more than 400 international and national employees and an annual turnover of around 20 million Euro, Johanniter International Assistance provides help where and when it is most needed. Its projects particularly concentrate on the

following four areas: primary health care, rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, disaster response and medium to long term (development) cooperation.

Johanniter International Assistance is committed to responsible cooperation. Through its actions, it aims to sustainably improve the living conditions of people in need. Johanniter International Assistance uses its resources wisely, always taking social, economic and ecologic consequences into account.

While all Johanniter projects and the underlying humanitarian tragedies deserve special attention, there were two major disasters in 2013 for which the year will particularly be remembered: the devastating typhoon that passed over the Philippines in November and the continuing internal conflict in Syria. The following two reports summarise Johanniter International Assistance's involvement in both crises.



► Global Johanniter International Assistance activities in 2013

Philippines – Help for Typhoon victims

On 8 November 2013 typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines with devastating consequences. According to statistics of the local authorities, approx. 5200 people died, another 20 000 were injured and 3 million people lost their homes.

Johanniter International Assistance was able to act immediately through a local partner organisation with whom they had already cooperated prior to the typhoon.

In Berlin, Johanniter International Assistance took preparatory measures for the deployment of a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) while members of the local partner organisation 'Balay Mindanaw Foundation' were able to travel to the scene immediately.

"In the beginning it was difficult to get an overview over the scene as both means of communication and transport were destroyed", remembers Jutta Meissner, Johanniter Head of Desk for Southeast Asia in Berlin. "However, it did not take long until we realised that there was a



► Typhoon Haiyan left 3 million people homeless.

in primary school buildings that had been converted into evacuation centres. "Up to 100 people visited the facility every day to get medical treatment. We treated cuts, the flu, skin inflammations and diarrhea", medical doctor and volunteer with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria Wolfgang Pramendorfer reported. After two weeks the first MERT was replaced by a second that continued with the desperately needed efforts. In total 2500 patients were treated during the three-weeks deployment. Additionally, Johanniter International Assistance distributed 16 portable water stations, drugs and medical supplies to local facilities and partner organisations to provide help for 60 000 people.

At the same time, in cooperation with their local partners on the islands Leyte and Panay, Johanniter International Assistance provided nourishment and supplies to help rebuild the destroyed houses. These aid supply packages were sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

After the return of the immediate response operation teams Johanniter International Assistance started to plan medium term activities to address future challenges. "Millions of houses need to be rebuilt and health facilities need to be constructed to provide first aid to the local population who in turn needs to be trained in risk prevention. That will take some time and will require a continuous effort from our side", says Jutta Meissner. One first step has already been taken. In cooperation with "Aktion Deutschland Hilft", a network of German disaster relief organisations, 50 wheelchairs and additional relief supplies have been sent to the Philippines. The wheelchairs provide mobility to people who are unable to walk and enable them to access healthcare centres and other essential facilities.



► In the three weeks of their deployment, the two Johanniter International Assistance teams treated 2500 people.

substantial need for aid. We immediately sent twelve Johanniter volunteers from our immediate response pool to the affected areas. In addition, two employees from the Johanniter office in Indonesia travelled to the scene to support. There they supported the local partner organisation in exploring the situation and identifying the needs as well as facilitating the arrival of the MERT." Johanniter International Assistance provided first aid in the city of Ormoc and on the island of Leyte. Typhoon Haiyan had left behind a devastating picture. Four out of six health facilities had been destroyed and 90% of the houses had collapsed. The local health authorities asked Johanniter International Assistance to provide first aid to people who had left their homes and were staying

Middle East – Johanniter provide aid to Syrian refugees

By the beginning of 2014, the civil war in Syria has already been going on for more than three years – with no end in sight. More than 100 000 people have died and 2.5 million people have fled to neighbouring countries. Since the beginning of the crisis, more than 600 000 Syrian refugees have fled to Jordan and more than 900 000 to Lebanon. The refugee influx to Syria's neighbouring countries is increasingly overburdening their administrative apparatus, health systems and local economies to a point where they are at risk of collapsing. "A constantly growing number of people have to share limited resources such as living space, water and electricity under terrible humanitarian conditions", Vera Voss, Head of the Johanniter office in Jordan reports.

Since the end of 2012 Johanniter International Assistance has collaborated with local aid organisations to provide relief supplies. So far it has distributed mattresses, duvets, clothes, radiators as well as hygiene and cleaning products to approximately 35 000 refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

An additional problem for the refugees is the insufficient drinking water supply. "In Jordan drinking water is only provided once a week", Vera Voss confirms. "It is filled into water tanks that are located on the roofs. One tank has to last for a whole week." To make matters worse many people need to share the tanks and many of them are in a terrible condition, particularly in the provisional shelters. Having recognised this, Johanniter



International Assistance is repairing water tanks, installing new ones, maintaining old water pipes and constructing new sewage systems.

Many Syrian refugees live in run-down provisional shelters in construction ruins, abandoned apartments, garages or stalls. For this reason, in 2013 Johanniter International Assistance renovated 1650 apartments in Jordan and Lebanon to improve the living conditions of the Syrian refugees. "Many of the shelters are in a terrible condition", Voss says. Johanniter International Assistance also plastered walls, insulated crevices and installed missing windows.



► Johanniter International Assistance has been delivering aid material to Syrian refugees since 2012.

JOIN's Work in 2013

The JOIN Board

The JOIN board is made up of representatives from JOIN member organisations and is elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. Its main tasks include supervising the work of the JOIN office and the General Manager, dealing with strategic questions and managing JOIN's relations with the Alliance of the Orders of St John.

In 2013 the term of the previous Board elapsed. Former Chairman Peter Åkerhielm and Hans-Peter von Kirchbach, Vice-Chairman, did not stand again for re-election. After what was perceived by all to be a successful two-year

term of the JOIN Board, the General Assembly thanked the JOIN Board and particularly Chairman Peter Åkerhielm for all their efforts.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2013, Christian Velten-Jameson from the French enterprise (Association des Oeuvres de Saint-Jean) was elected new Chairman of JOIN, while Ian Mackenzie from St John Ambulance England was appointed Vice-Chairman. Both Velten-Jameson and Mackenzie had been members of the previous Board (2011-2013). The other two Board members elected were Johannes Bucher from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria and Dr. Arnold v. Rümker from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany. With Johannes Bucher, a Board member with extensive experience in JOIN, also as Chairman, returns to the JOIN Board. The term of the current board ends at the Annual General Meeting in May 2015.



► The JOIN Board 2013-2015. From left to right: Johannes Bucher (JUH Austria), Christian Velten-Jameson (St Jean France), Ian Mackenzie (SJA England), Dr. Arnold v. Rümker (JUH Germany).

The Board meets regularly at face-to-face meetings or holds conference calls. In 2013, apart from meeting at the AGM, the Board held two meetings in Brussels and several conference calls. While the meeting in March was the regular annual face-to-face meeting with the working group chairs, the other face-to-face meeting in October included an evening event with the Brussels Subcommandery of the Johanniterorden. This gave the Brussels-based members of the Johanniterorden the opportunity to learn more about JOIN and its activities, also through presentations through JOIN Board member Johannes Bucher and JOIN General Manager Daniel McCormack.

Working groups in 2013

Given the aim of JOIN to derive benefits for its members from increased exchange and cooperation, the working groups are one of the most important institutions in JOIN. The working groups provide a platform where JOIN members can exchange knowledge and experience on any given issue, and also offer a space where JOIN members can set the thematic foundation for common projects. By combining resources within the network, JOIN can realise projects for which individual members might not possess the capacity.

Moreover, the working groups also guarantee a participatory and transparent structure within JOIN as participation in the working groups is not only open to all members, but also strongly encouraged.

The working groups meet on a regular basis. While a face-to-face meeting allows for a more thorough and personal exchange at least once a year, regular Skype and telephone conferences ensure close exchange between the working group members.

In 2013, five working groups were operative within JOIN.

Clinical Working Group

As its name suggests, the JOIN clinical working group deals with all clinical and medical cooperation within JOIN. The group being made up of chief medical officers of all JOIN members with respective services, its main aim is to exchange information on medical developments within the JOIN organisations as well as on the respective national levels. In addition, the working group monitors international developments with regard to clinical issues such as negotiations in the European Resuscitation Council. The Clinical group is currently headed by Dr. Louis Lillywhite, chief medical officer of St John Ambulance (ENG).

In 2013, the group met in Brussels in December to discuss EU directives related to clinical activities and more effective sharing of clinical human resources within the network and updated each other on their current projects and challenges in the clinical area. For more information see the meeting report on page 16.

International Assistance Working Group

Johanniter International Assistance is the executive department of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe (GER) for all activities related to international humanitarian aid and development cooperation. It fosters worldwide partnerships for the implementation of projects and facilitates cooperation between JOIN members. The international disaster response team of Johanniter comprising some volunteers from other JOIN members have successfully trained and performed in real life response operations, such as the emergency response operations in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines in which a medical doctor from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Austria took part. Director Guido Dost is also head of the JOIN working group.

In late 2013, the JOIN office and Johanniter International Assistance made preparations for a meeting on international cooperation to bring together all JOIN members involved in activities in humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. The meeting is to take place in January 2014 in Berlin and aims to increase topic-related exchange within the JOIN network and discussions on closer and more effective collaboration in the area of international cooperation.

PR & Marketing Working Group

This working group, headed by Dr. Robert Brandstetter (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, AT), deals with all issues concerning JOIN's press work, the website, publications as well as corporate identity (CI) and corporate design (CD). In the past, for example, it developed the JOIN logo and helped develop brochures on JOIN activities. The main purpose of the group lies in sharing experiences, best practices and know-how on related topics. The working group provides a platform where JOIN members can share resources and material aimed for PR and marketing

purposes. Related issues such as fundraising and the JOIN-internal purchasing of medical equipment have also been part of the group discussions.

In 2013 the working group met twice in person – in London in March and in Vienna in October – and held several Skype meetings. For more details on the face-to-face meeting in Vienna, please see page 15. In addition, with support from and acting on the initiative of the JOIN office, the working group also dealt with network-strategic questions such as interest representation and EU funds and took first steps in the area of 'JOINT' lobbying.

Volunteering Working Group

This working group is headed by Jacco Kruithof (Johanniter Hulpverlening, NL) and is responsible for volunteer exchanges between JOIN members and the Volunteer Swap. These activities enrich the individual volunteering experience, enhance cooperation and understanding between the members and enable JOIN members to work together in an efficient and practical way. Moreover, the working group also deals with all other issues regarding volunteering such as legal guidelines and recruitment of volunteers.

In 2013, the working group was decisive in organising all activities related to the JOIN Permanent Volunteer Swap in its first year. Apart from several Skype meetings, the group prepared the logistics and content of a face-to-face meeting that is to be held in February 2013 in Vienna.

Youth Working Group

As the name suggests, the working group youth discusses common interests in JOIN member's youth activities such as first aid trainings and competitions, youth exchanges etc. The working group also facilitates numerous bi- and multilateral exchanges between young members of JOIN organisations.

In 2013, the working group organised First Aid Days, a series of events around St John's day on 24 June. Through several events related to first aid across Europe the working group aimed to raise awareness about the importance of first aid particularly among young people. For a detailed overview of the activities organised, please see page 9.

Apart from several Skype meetings in 2013, the group had a face-to-face meeting in Riga in October. Upon invitation from the JOIN office, Andrea Gerriets from the International Project and Cooperation Unit of the German Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe joined and presented the new EU funding programme for youth-related activities and exchanges in the EU's new multiannual financial period 2014-2020. On this basis, the youth group members developed several ideas for future common projects. For more details on the meeting in Riga, please see page 16. Since the meeting in Riga, Gareth O'Gorman from St John Ambulance has been Chair of the working group youth.

The JOIN Secretariat in 2013

The JOIN Secretariat is located in Brussels, at the heart of decision making in the European Union. This enables the office to observe relevant European policy developments at first hand and report these back to its members, as well as to advocate the positions and interests of JOIN and its member organisations directly to decision makers.

The Secretariat also acts as a communication and information centre for JOIN members, e.g. by publishing the monthly newsletter JOINews, by running an informative website and by replying to enquiries on European matters put forward by JOIN's members. The JOIN office identifies relevant EU funding opportunities for its members, as well.

In addition, the Secretariat maintains close contact with NGO partners, the Brussels offices of national and regional representations and with the members of the Orders of St John who work and live in the "European capital".

In 2013, the office had a key role in new developments within the network. A questionnaire developed by the JOIN office and filled in by the JOIN members helped identify what role the European Union plays regarding lobbying and funding within JOIN members. In the course of the year, the JOIN office reacted and started to put a stronger emphasis on monitoring European Union policy developments. First results could be seen at the working group meetings of PR & Marketing and the Clinical Group where the JOIN office provided up-to-date information on relevant policy developments on European level.

In addition, the JOIN office has started to promote more strongly European Union funding opportunities within the network. This process is supported by the new, close partnership between the JOIN office and the International Projects and Cooperation Unit of the Johanniter-Unfall-

Hilfe in Germany, which has extensive experience in European Union project participation and management. This partnership has already proved to link resources more efficiently within the JOIN network.

Throughout the year, the JOIN office has increased its representative character for members in Brussels. The General Manager and his assistants took part in various meetings and conferences in Brussels in the areas of humanitarian assistance, civil protection and research and innovation (HORIZON 2020) on behalf of several JOIN members.

Regular contact between the secretariat and the members of JOIN is inevitable for maintaining effective working relations within the network. In light of this, in 2013, General Manager Daniel McCormack visited members in Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Latvia, England and Jerusalem (in chronological order), amongst others. At these meetings, he introduced JOIN and informed about its services, promoted its networking resources and activities, established new contacts and strengthened and further developed existing working relations. While he mostly met staff and volunteers from the JOIN enterprises, his contact partners also included officials from the different Orders of St John. Further visits to other JOIN members are already planned for 2014.

Moreover, the JOIN office was responsible for launching the new JOIN website and for writing, editing and publishing the first JOIN Annual Review. The office also hosted two Board meetings and a working group meeting.

In 2013 the JOIN office team was made up of General Manager Daniel McCormack and two assistants, Sarah Helmhold and Christian Imfeld.

Perspectives on 2014

While 2013 saw invaluable developments within the JOIN network and in the services provided by the JOIN office, 2014 promises further progress on these developments and new initiatives.

The emphasis on promoting EU funding opportunities is still new and can be reinforced. Based on the interest shown by JOIN members, it seems likely that JOIN partners will explore the possibility of preparing joint project proposals. The same applies to the newly started lobbying initiatives in 2013 which were met with interest by JOIN members.

Following the successful projects that the Volunteer Swap brought in 2013, efforts will be continued to attract more volunteers and offer more projects. The more exchanges

take place, the better known JOIN becomes within its member organisations. First swap opportunities for 2014 are already being offered.

Already at the end of 2013, a meeting on humanitarian aid and development cooperation was being planned. The aim of the meeting will be to bring together all the JOIN members who are engaged in related activities. This may place the International assistance working group on a whole new foundation and transfer it into a genuine multilateral exchange and project group.

The Annual General Meeting in 2014 will be hosted by the Hungarian JOIN member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat and will take place in Budapest on 22-25 May.

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Rue Joseph II, 166
Brussels
Phone +32 2 282 1045
join.office@johanniter.org
www.johanniter.org
Registered in Belgium (ASBL)

Authors Daniel McCormack,
Sarah Helmhold, Christian Imfeld

Editor Daniel McCormack

Layout and design Mag.^a Julia Kadlec

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p. 7 (left/bottom/top right) – Juliana Flurschütz/JUH Germany; **p. 8** (top left) – Juliana Flurschütz/JUH Germany,
(bottom left/right) – Erik Udris/SVJP Latvia; **p. 9** (bottom left) – JUH Germany, (right) – JSSZ Hungary;
p. 10 (top left) – SVJP Latvia, (right) – SJC Wales, (bottom left) – Katharina Schmid/JUH Germany;
p. 11 (left) – Belinda Schneider; **p. 12** (bottom left) – Daniel Hug; **p. 13** (right/left) – JOIN;
p. 14 (top left/right) – Robert Brandstetter, (bottom left) – Sarah Helmhold; **p. 15** (bottom left) – Michael Thüringer;
p. 16 (top left) – Gyula Dora; **p. 17** – Stephen Morley – Wikimedia Commons; **p. 18** (bottom left/top right) – Paul Hahn;
p. 19 (top right/bottom) – Jakob Studnar; **p. 20** – Robert Brandstetter

About JOIN

Johanniter International (JOIN) is a partnership of 16 national charity organisations in Europe and the Middle East, which were originally founded by the Orders of St John. Member organisations provide national and international services such as emergency medical services, first aid, social care, youth work and international assistance, in addition to services for elderly, poor and disabled people in need. The shared approach of JOIN members to humanitarian welfare and social aid is based on the member organisations' Christian heritage.

The work of JOIN charities is made possible through the combined efforts of over 100,000 volunteers and professionals who believe that our societies need people that care for other people. JOIN is made up of charitable organisations that rely on fundraising to continue their work. Activities and projects are funded by donations from individuals, companies and foundations across the world.

The central office is located in Brussels, Belgium. Its purpose is to advocate the interests of St John charities within the institutions of the European Union and facilitate Europe-wide cooperation as well as international projects.

For further information please contact our Brussels office.

